



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: Council Chambers, County of Essex Civic Centre
360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON

List of Business	Page Number
1. Call to Order	
2. Land Acknowledgement	
3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest	
4. Approval of Agenda	1-3
5. Hearings	
A. Convene as the Hearing Board	
B. Reconvene as the ERCA Board of Directors	
6. Adoption of Minutes	
A. ERCA Board of Directors Meeting	4-10
B. Conservation Ontario Council	11-21
7. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes	
8. Announcements	
9. Delegations	
None	
10. Presentations	
None	

11. Reports for Approval

- A. **BD19/24 Notice of Invasive Species Hydrilla Verticillata Detected in the West Cell, Hillman Marsh Conservation Area** 22-30
- B. **BD20/24 2025 Board Meeting Schedule** 31-32

12. Reports for Information

- A. **BD21/24 Draft Watershed Management Strategy** 33-66
- B. **BD22/24 Draft Conservation Land Strategy** 67-102
- C. **BD23/24 Financial Activities for the Seven Months ended July 31, 2024** 103-117
- D. **BD24/24 John R. Park Homestead Restoration Update** 118-119
- E. **BD25/24 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for June, July and August 2024** 120-127
- F. **Environmental Registry Reports**
 - i. Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act" (ERO # 019-8860) 128-129
 - ii. Conservation Ontario's comments on "Improving Accessible Built Environment Standards, August 29, 2024" 130-136
- G. **Correspondence**
 - i. Letter from the City of Windsor 2025 Budget Request dated July 31, 2024 137-139

13. Committee of the Whole

None

14. New Business

15. Other Business

A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors will be held October 10, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Essex Civic Centre.

16. Adjournment



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Byrne", is written over a faint horizontal line.

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Upcoming Events

- October 10, 2024
- November 14, 2024
- December 12, 2024



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Location and Details: Council Chambers, County of Essex Civic Centre
360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON

Attendance

Members Present:

Jim Morrison (Chair)	Michael Akpata
Molly Allaire	Anthony Abraham
Jason Matyi	Larry Verbeke
Katie McGuire-Blais	Joe Bachetti (joined at 6:08pm)
Dennis Rogers	Tania Jobin (joined at 6:06pm)
Tracey Bailey	Angelo Marignani (joined at 6:11pm)
Ryan McNamara	

Absent:

Regrets:

Sue Desjarlais (Vice-Chair)	Dayne Malloch
Peter Courtney	Kieran McKenzie
Thomas Neufeld	Mark McKenzie

Staff Present

Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Nicole Kupnicki, Corporate Services, Human Resources Manager/EA
Shelley McMullen, CFO/Director Finance and Corporate Services
Kevin Money, Director Conservation Services
James Bryant, Director Watershed Management Services
Tian Martin, Watershed Engineer

Others

Pete Zuzek, Zuzek Inc
Kris Ives, Curator/Education Coordinator
Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist/SWP Project Manager
Tom Fuerth, Chair Source Water Protection Committee

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the June 20, 2024, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors. I will call the meeting to order. We have regrets this evening from:

- Councillor Peter Courtney, Amherstburg
- Councillor Thomas Neufeld, Kingsville
- Councillor Sue Desjarlais, Lasalle
- Deputy Mayor Dayne Malloch, Pelee
- Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Windsor
- Councillor Mark McKenzie, Windsor

2. Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples.

We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island - North America who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 56/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Jason Matyi
THAT the Agenda of the June 20, 2024, meeting of the ERCA Board of Directors be approved.
Carried

5. Hearings

None

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. ERCA Board of Directors

Resolution 57/24 Moved by Michael Akpata
Seconded by Tania Jobin
THAT the Minutes of the April 11, 2024, meeting of the Board of Directors and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

B. ERCA Executive Committee

Resolution 58/24 Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Dennis Rogers
THAT the Minutes of the May 30, 2024, meeting of the Executive Committee and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

C. ERCA Finance & Audit Advisory Board

Resolution 59/24 Moved by Katie McGuire-Blais
Seconded by Molly Alliare
THAT the Minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting of the Finance & Audit Advisory Board and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

D. ERCA John R. Park Homestead Advisory Board

Resolution 60/24 Moved by Tania Jobin
Seconded by Larry Verbeke

THAT the Minutes of the June 5, 2024, meeting of the John R. Park Homestead Advisory Board and the recommendations therein be approved as distributed. **Carried**

7. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

A. Tender: Hillman Marsh Barrier Beach and Wetland Restoration – Phase 1

Resolution 61/24 Moved by Tracey Bailey
Seconded by Katie McGuire-Blais

THAT following review from the Engineer and Administration, the Tender for Hillman Marsh Barrier Beach & Wetland Restoration Phase 1, be awarded to South Shore Contracting of Essex County Inc. in the amount of \$588,100.

8. Announcements

It's been a busy Spring, and much has been achieved. After an incredibly wet and long tree planting season, we were successful in adding 65,000 trees to the regional landscape.

I was most thankful to Past Chair Kieran McKenzie who represented the Board in thanking Caesars Windsor for its investment in Devonwood Conservation Area, which has made the entrance safer, more accessible and more welcoming for guests.

He also attended the Essex Region Conservation Foundation's Donor Appreciation and Awards to extend our Board's gratitude to the many donors who helped raised over \$670,000 for conservation projects last year.

We continue to see strong attendance at our conservation areas, and outdoor education programs have returned to pre-pandemic levels this spring, allowing more children to have opportunities to connect with nature.

Applications for permits and reviews continue to be steady, and significant time has been invested in the updates to the Regional Stormwater Guidelines which will help ensure clarity and consistency for developers across the region.

Finally, I'd like to remind all Board members about the Foundation's upcoming Golf Tournament. This is the Foundation's largest fundraising event, and considering the significant funds it raises for conservation projects, it would be wonderful if we could all lend our support. You can email Danielle for further information.

9. Delegations

None

10. Presentations

A. BD13/24 Essex Region Shoreline Hazard Mapping Project Completion

Resolution 62/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the new shoreline hazard mapping, associated reports, and supporting technical information for use by ERCA Administration to support Section 28 regulatory approvals, development reviews, and hazard management policies of the Authority. **Carried**

B. John R. Park Homestead Restoration Project Update

Resolution 63/24 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT Members' receive the John R. Park Homestead Restoration Project Update for information. **Carried**

11. Reports for Approval

A. BD14/24 Draft 2023 Audited Financial Statements and Financial Condition Update

Resolution 64/24 Moved by Angelo Marignani
Seconded by Molly Alliare

THAT Administration review and report to the Finance & Audit Advisory Board with a recommendation for a draft Investment Policy. **Carried**

Resolution 65/24 Moved by Tracey Bailey
Seconded by Dennis Rogers

THAT the additional identified unbudgeted transfers to the Authority's reserve funds (Table 1), of \$84,355, as initiated by Administration, and supported by the FAAB, be approved by the Board of Directors; and further,

THAT, as recommended by the FAAB, the operating surplus remain intact until a recommendation is made through the Executive Committee prior to December 31, 2024, regarding a formal succession plan for key management positions; and further,

THAT, as recommended by the FAAB, the draft audited Financial Statements of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, including the Independent Auditor's Report, for the year ended December 31, 2023, be approved by the Board of Directors and released as final audited Financial Statements. **Carried**

B. BD15/24 Windsor/Essex Region Stormwater Manual Update

Resolution 66/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara
Seconded by Larry Verbeke

THAT ERCA incorporate the updated Windsor/Essex Region Stormwater Manual into policy for use in reviewing development applications; and further,

THAT the updated Windsor/Essex Region Stormwater Manual be distributed to partners to be incorporated into municipal development standards; and further,

THAT Administration continue to be proactive in working with Municipalities to undertake regional studies to effectively manage water resources related to development pressures and issues. **Carried**

C. BD16/24 Hillman Marsh Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project – Pre-Qualified Engineering Services

Resolution 67/24 Moved by Larry Verbeke
Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Essex Region Conservation Authority enter into an agreement with SJL Engineering Inc. for engineering services, as described in Report BD16/24, for a maximum value of \$1,317,300.00 plus HST, pending confirmation of funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada. **Carried**

D. BD17/24 John R. Park Homestead Emergency Response and Disaster Plan

Resolution 68/24 Moved by Katie McGuire-Blais
Seconded by Jason Matyi

THAT the John R. Park Homestead Emergency Response and Disaster Plan be approved for inclusion in ERCA's submission to the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG), as required by the Provincial Museum Operating Standards. **Carried**

12. Reports for Information

A. BD18/24 Watershed Management Services Activities Report for April and May 2024

Resolution 69/24 Moved by Tania Jobin
Seconded by Joe Bachetti

THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD18/24 be received for Members' information. **Carried**

B. Environmental Registry Reports

- i. Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act" (ERO #019-8320), May 6, 2024
- ii. Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Review of proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument" (ERO# 019-8462)
- iii. Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposed Regulatory Changes under the Planning Act Relating to the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185): Removing Barriers for Additional Residential Units" (ERO# 019- 8366); "Proposed Planning Act, City of Toronto Act, 2006, and Municipal Act, 2001 Changes (Schedules 4, 9, and 12 of Bill 185 - the proposed Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024)" (ERO# 019-8369); and the, "Proposed Changes to Regulations under the Planning Act and Development Charges Act, 1997 Relating to the Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185): Newspaper Notice Requirements and Consequential Housekeeping Changes" (ERO# 019-8370)

Resolution 70/24 Moved by Tania Jobin

Seconded by Angelo Marignani

THAT Conservation Ontario comments on ERO#019-8320, ERO#019-8462 and Bill 185 Associated ERO Proposals be received for Members' information. **Carried**

C. Correspondence

- i. Letter from the City of Windsor regarding Council Resolution 189/2024 Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act dated May 10, 2024

Resolution 71/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara

Seconded by Tracey Bailey

THAT correspondence be received for Members' information. **Carried**

D. Confidential Matters related to Property Matters

Resolution 72/24 Moved by Tania Jobin

Seconded by Molly Alliare

THAT the meeting move from Board of Directors to Committee of the Whole related to property matters. **Carried**

E. Resume Open Session

Resolution 73/24 Moved by Ryan McNamara

Seconded by Dennis Rogers

THAT the actions of the Committee of the Whole be endorsed. **Carried**

13. New Business

A. Phragmites

A discussion was held with respect to control of invasive species, phragmites. ERCA is collaborating as part of a newly formed multi-agency working group to address this issue at a regional level. In 2023, ERCA received board approval to participate in a scientific study using biological control at Collavino Conservation Area. Results of this initiative are still pending review and publication. One of the goals of the regional working group is to determine a strategy for meaningful progress with broad application.

B. ERCA's role with Blue Heron Pond

A permit for construction was issued by ERCA at this site. There is no existing bylaw/regulation for ERCA to have care and control over this area. Secondary use recommendation includes allowing this area to become a naturalized site as much as practically possible but that does not limit the municipality's ability to maintain the area. Fishing is not an activity under the purview of ERCA.

14. Other Business.

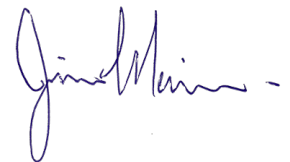
A. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 6:00pm in Council Chambers, Essex Civic Centre.

15. Adjournment

Resolution 74/24 Moved by Molly Alliare
Seconded by Ryan McNamara

THAT the June 20, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors be adjourned. **Carried**



Jim Morrison, Chair



Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



CONSERVATION ONTARIO COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sheraton Parkway North Hotel & Suites - 600 Highway 7, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2

Voting Delegates Present:

Chair: Chris White, Grand River

Marissa Vaughan, Ausable Bayfield
David Heinbuck, Ausable Bayfield
Paul Proderick, Cataraqui Region
Paul Buchner, Catfish Creek
Dusty Underhill, Catfish Creek
Elizabeth Roy, Central Lake Ontario
Chris Darling, Central Lake Ontario
Michael Palleschi, Credit Valley
Ann Lawlor, Credit Valley
Quentin Hanchard, Credit Valley
Tim Pidduck, Crowe Valley
Sue Desjarlais, Essex Region
Tim Byrne, Essex Region
Vicki Mink, Ganaraska Region
Linda Laliberte, Ganaraska Region
Chris White, Grand River
Samantha Lawson, Grand River
Nadia Dubyk, Grey Sauble
Tim Lanthier, Grey Sauble
Brad Clark, Hamilton
Susan Fielding, Hamilton
Lisa Burnside, Hamilton
Pat Warren, Kawartha
Mark Majchrowski, Kawartha Grant
Jones, Kettle Creek Elizabeth
VanHooren, Kettle Creek
Clare Riepma, Lake Simcoe Region
Rob Baldwin, Lake Simcoe Region
Donna Blunt, Lakehead
Tammy Cook, Lakehead
Dave Beres, Long Point Region
Mark Peacock, Lower Thames Valley

Bob Mullin, Lower Trent
Rhonda Bateman, Lower Trent
Paul Kehoe, Mississippi Valley
Sally McIntyre, Mississippi Valley
John Metcalfe, Niagara Peninsula
Chandra Sharma, Niagara Peninsula
Jennifer Davidson, Nickle District,
(Conservation Sudbury)
Carl Jorgensen, Nickel District,
(Conservation Sudbury)
Chithra Gowda, North Bay-Mattawa
Gail Little, Nottawasaga Valley
Jonathan Scott, Nottawasaga Valley
Doug Hevenor, Nottawasaga Valley
Michael Metcalf, Otonabee Region
Janette Loveys Smith, Otonabee Region
Chris Malette, Quinte Region
Brad McNevin, Quinte Region
Richard Pilon, Raisin Region
Kristin Strackerjan, Rideau Valley
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Rideau Valley
Barbara Dobrean, Saugeen Valley
Jennifer Stephens, Saugeen Valley
Corrina Barrett, Sault Ste Marie Region
Adrien Wynands, South Nation
Carl Bickerdike, South Nation
Ken Phillips, St. Clair Region
Paul Ainslie, Toronto and Region
John Mackenzie, Toronto and Region
Brian Petrie, Upper Thames River
Tracy Annett, Upper Thames River

Guests:

Aaron LeDuc, Long Point Region
Barb Veale, Conservation Halton
Brian Horner, Ausable Bayfield
Tom Beaubiah, Cataraqui Region
Adam Delle Cese, BDO LLP

Members Absent:

Mattagami Region
Maitland Valley Conservation

CO Staff:

Kristin Bristow
Angela Coleman
Teresa Dang
Nicholas Fischer
Bonnie Fox
Lauren McPherson

Nekeisha Mohammed
Patricia Moleirinho
Leslie Rich
Jo-Anne Rzadki
Jenna Salvatore
Rick Wilson

1. Welcome from the Chair

Chair White welcomed everyone in attendance, and a land acknowledgement was provided.

2. Roundtable Introductions of New Council Members

- General Managers and new Council members introduced themselves to the membership. Angela Coleman provided a welcome to the new membership.
- Bonnie Fox and Kristin Bristow were recognized for Conservation Ontario milestone awards; Bonnie Fox for 25 years, and Kristin Bristow for 15 years with Conservation Ontario.
- Brian Horner’s retirement from ABCA was recognized, and Davin Heinbuck was welcomed as the new GM for ABCA.
- Katrina Furlanetto’s departure from CRCSA was recognized, and David Ellingwood’s new position as GM with CRCA (starting April 29th, 2024) was announced.
- Richard Pilon’s upcoming retirement was recognized (end of June 2024). New GM recruitment is underway.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 1/24 Moved by: Brian Petrie
Seconded by: Barbara Dobreen**

THAT the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was none declared.

5. Request for Approval: Conservation Ontario Council Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 2/24 Moved by: Paul Ainslie
Seconded by: Grant Jones**

THAT the minutes of the December 11, 2023 Council Meeting be approved. **CARRIED**

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none that was not covered by the meeting agenda.

6. Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Request for Approval: 2024 Conservation Ontario Council Elections (and Procedures)

Angela Coleman presented the report.

**RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 3/24 Moved by: Dave Beres
Seconded by: Nadia Dubyk**

THAT Council appoints Angela Coleman, General Manager, as Acting Chair;

AND THAT the Auditing firm of BDO Canada LLP and Lauren McPherson of Conservation Ontario be appointed as scrutineers in the event of a vote;

AND THAT Appendix A (Conservation Ontario Annual Meeting Voting Delegates Election Procedures) of the By-Laws of the Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario (ACAO) be adhered to. **CARRIED**

The proceedings were handed over to Angela Coleman (CO). All the positions were declared vacant for 2024 and the election procedures were reviewed.

All positions were declared vacant and open for election.

Angela Coleman called for nominations for Chair of Conservation Ontario for 2024. Brad Clark nominated Chris White (Grand River) for Chair of Conservation Ontario.

Angela Coleman called a second and third time for nominations and hearing none closed the nominations.

Chris White accepted the nomination and was declared Chair of Conservation Ontario for 2024.

Angela Coleman called for nominations for 1st Vice Chair of Conservation Ontario for 2024. Clare Riepma nominated Jonathan Scott.

Angela Coleman called a second and third time for nominations and hearing none closed the nominations.

Jonathan Scott accepted the nomination and was declared Vice Chair for Conservation Ontario for 2024.

Angela Coleman called for nominations for the 2nd Vice Chair of Conservation Ontario for 2024.

Paul Proderick nominated Pat Warren.

Angela Coleman called a second and third time for nominations and hearing none closed the nominations.

Pat Warren accepted the nomination and was declared Vice Chair for Conservation Ontario for 2024.

Angela Coleman called for nominations for the Director (staff position) for 2024. Bob Mullin nominated Brad McNevin.

Angela Coleman called a second and third time for nominations and hearing none closed the nominations.

Brad McNevin accepted the nomination and was declared Director of Conservation Ontario for 2024.

Angela Coleman called for nominations for the Director (staff position) for 2024. John Metcalfe nominated Rob Baldwin.

Angela Coleman called a second and third time for nominations and hearing none closed the nominations.

Rob Baldwin accepted the nomination and was declared Director of Conservation Ontario for 2024.

Angela Coleman called for nominations for Director for Conservation Ontario for 2024. It was noted that this could be a staff or elected member.

Samantha Lawson nominated Chandra Sharma.

Angela Coleman called a second and third time for nominations and hearing none closed the nominations.

Chandra Sharma accepted the nomination and was declared Director of Conservation Ontario for 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL -4/24

Moved by: Brian Petrie

Seconded by: Barbara Dobreen

THAT the following members be accepted in their new positions on the Conservation Ontario Board of Directors:

Chris White (Grand River CA) Chair of Conservation Ontario;
Jonathan Scott (Nottawasaga Valley CA) Vice Chair of Conservation Ontario;
Pat Warren (Kawartha Region CA) Vice Chair of Conservation Ontario;
Brad McNevin (Quinte Region CA) Director of Conservation Ontario;
Rob Baldwin (Lake Simcoe Region CA) Director of Conservation Ontario;
Chandra Sharma (Niagara Peninsula CA) Director of Conservation Ontario.

b) Request for Approval: 2024 Council Voting Delegates and Alternates

Angela Coleman presented the report.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 5/24 Moved by: Pat Warren

Seconded by: Jennifer Davidson

THAT the Council Voting Delegates and Alternates list be approved as amended (MVCA added their membership).

CARRIED

c) Request for Approval: Standing Committee Representation

Angela Coleman presented the report.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL-6/24 Moved by: Samantha Lawson

Seconded by: Micheal Palleschi

THAT the Council Voting Delegates and Alternates list be approved as presented.

CARRIED

d) Request for Approval: Conservation Ontario Representatives and; Annual Update: Committees and Conservation Authority Discussion Groups

Angela Coleman presented the report.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 7/24 Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Paul Ainslie

THAT Council receives this report as information.

AND THAT Council approves the following representatives of the following groups in Table Standing Interagency Committees:

Carolinian Canada Coalition, Board - Kerry Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Certified Crop Advisory Association Board of Directors - Tatianna Lozier, Stewardship Services Coordinator, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

GLWQA Annex 10 Science Sub-Committee (Env and Climate Change Canada co-chair)- Katie Stammler, Risk Management Official/Inspector, Essex Region Conservation Authority

Ontario Hydrometric Program Coordinating Committee (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Water Survey Canada)- Tammy Cook, General Manager, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (July 2023-July 2024)

CARRIED

e) Request for Approval: 2023 Audited Financial Statements and Audit Letters

Adam Delle Cese from BDO presented the Auditor's report to Council.

Linda Laliberte presented the Budget and Audit Committee report.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 8/24 Moved by: Samantha Lawson

Seconded by: Brian Petrie

THAT Council endorses and approves the Budget and Audit Committee's recommendation that the Financial Statements of Conservation Ontario for the year ending December 31, 2023 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

f) Orientation for New Council Members (PowerPoint Presentation)

Angela provided an orientation presentation attached to the minutes. Additional questions from new members were invited by way of contacting Conservation Ontario directly. Dave Beres asked about what advocacy events Conservation Ontario was undertaking and suggested that returning to holding a Queen's Park Day would be welcomed; it was noted that optics and that credibility is gained through being visible and holding an in-person event would be advantageous. Angela Coleman noted that Conservation Ontario hopes to obtain members' support for a Queen's Park Day in the future, but the timing may not be appropriate at this point with ongoing negotiations with the Province. Chair White noted that there is currently advocacy and in-person conversations occurring and agreed that moving forward with events (i.e. Queen's Park Day) in the future is of interest for Conservation Ontario and the CA membership.

g) Update: 2023 Conservation Ontario Annual Report

Nekeisha Mohammed and Angela Coleman provided an update on the 2023 Annual Report.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL -9/24 Moved by: Kristin Strackerjan

Seconded by: Paul Ainslie

THAT Council receives the Update 2023 Conservation Ontario Annual Report as information.

CARRIED

There was a brief recess taken at this point in the agenda. Chair White left the meeting for another local Council engagement, and Vice Chair Scott chaired the meeting proceedings for the remainder of the agenda.

Linda Laliberte was recognized and thanked for her tenure on both the CO Board of Directors and the CO Budget and Audit Committee. Pierre Leroux and Robert Rock were not present at the meeting but were thanked for their representation on the CO Board of Directors.

h) Request for Approval: 2024 Special Projects Budget

Angela Coleman presented the report.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL-10/24

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Adrian Wynands

THAT the 2024 Special Projects Budget in the amount of \$11,450,441 be approved as recommended by the Budget & Audit Committee.

CARRIED

i) Update: Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative (CSSI) and 2023 Report on Section 28 Permit Timelines

Nicholas Fischer Fox provided an update and presentation attached to the minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL -11/24

Moved by: Micheal Palleschi

Seconded by: Pat Warren

THAT Council receives the 2023 Annual Report on CA Section 28 Permit Timelines as information.

CARRIED

j) Update: Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “New regulation to focus municipal environmental assessment requirements” (ERO#019-7891)

Nicholas Fischer provided an update.

**RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 12/24 Moved by: Brian Petrie
Seconded by: Grant Jones**

THAT Council receives this report and the attached submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) titled “New regulation to focus municipal environmental assessment requirements” (ERO#019-7891) submitted March 18, 2024, as information. **CARRIED**

k) Update: Flood and Erosion Hazard Mapping Initiatives and Engagement

Jo-Anne Rzedki and Rick Wilson provided an update.

Sally McIntyre referenced Ontario Regulation 41/24 that requires annual update of floodplain mapping. Conservation Ontario will work with the CAs to ensure best practices for implementation.

**RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 13/24 Moved by: Adrian Wynands
Seconded by: Dave Beres**

THAT Council receives the Flood and Erosion Hazard Mapping Initiatives and Engagement report for information and discussion. **CARRIED**

l) Update: New Regulation for Conservation Authority Permits

Bonnie Fox provided an update and presentation that is attached to the minutes.

**RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 14/24 Moved by: Barbara Dobreen
Seconded by: Pat Warren**

THAT Council receives the New Regulation for Conservation Authority Permits report for information and discussion. **CARRIED**

m) Update: New Ontario Regulation 41/24: Implementation Support

Bonnie Fox provided an update and presentation that is attached to the minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 15/24

Moved by: Gail Little

Seconded by: Nadia Dubyk

THAT Council receives this Ontario Regulation 41/24: Implementation Support report as information.

CARRIED

n) Update: Environment and Climate Change Canada Funding Programs

Jenna Salvatore and Rick Wilson provided an update.

John Metcalfe and Carl Bickerdike thanked Conservation Ontario staff for their efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 16/24

Moved by: Adrian Wynands

Seconded by: Barbara Dobreen

THAT Council receives the Environment and Climate Change Canada Funding Programs Update report as information.

CARRIED

o) Update: Tree Canada Partnership with Conservation Ontario

Jo-Anne Rzaszki provided an update.

John Metcalfe thanked Conservation Ontario staff for their efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 17/24

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Nadia Dubyk

THAT Council receives the Tree Canada Partnership with Conservation Ontario report as information.

CARRIED

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent Items p), q) and r) i. – r) iv.

p) Update: Amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects

THAT Council receives the Update on Amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects report as information.

q) Update: Conservation Ontario's comments on Canada's 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy – Milestone Document (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

THAT Council receives this report and the attached submission on Canada's National

Biodiversity Strategy “Milestone Document” submitted February 9, 2024, as information.

- r) i. Update: Policy and Planning Program
THAT Council receives this report as information.
- r) ii. Update: Business Development and Partnerships Program
THAT Council receives this report as information.
- r) iii. Update: Drinking Water Source Protection Program
THAT Council receives this report as information.
- r) iv. Update: Marketing and Communications Program
THAT Council receives this report as information.
- r) vi. Update: Information Management Program
THAT Council receives this report as information.

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 18/24

Moved by: Brian Petrie

Seconded by: Sam Lawson

THAT Council approve a consent agenda and endorse the recommendations accompanying Consent Items p), q) and r) i. – r) iv.

CARRIED

7. New Business

Nekeisha Mohammed and Lauren McPherson provided a brief update on Latornell 2024. Updates were given on dates, location, and Symposium theme; “*The Future of Conservation is Collaborative*” (focus on Water, Land, and People Collaborations). A new Latornell website and call for presentations is to be released next week. Lauren McPherson provided updates on accommodation options, symposium sponsorship opportunities, and that registration for the event will be opening on August 12, 2024.

It was recognized that April 19, 2024 is Hassaan Basit’s last day with Halton Conservation, and Barb Veale noted that she will be Acting CAO at Halton until the search for a new CAO is completed.

Carl Jorgensen provided an update from the Insurance and Benefits Committee. Marsh is the current broker (Glen Sheppard), 3.5% decrease in premiums, and Brokerage fee did not increase at all. It was noted that additional cyber insurance coverage is available, and that an event portal for onsite events can be added. Seasonal Campgrounds and asset management insurance is an ongoing topic of discussion with the committee, as well as doing outreach to determine which CAs regarding cyber security training for CA staff. It was noted that the committee is also working on mental health coverage benefits.

Sally McIntyre noted a cyber ransomware attack that Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority had experienced and provided a positive review for the assistance they received to mitigate the attack.

Barbara Dobreen spoke to the SWP and Saugeen Grey Sauble and Northern Bruce Peninsula sent a letter of support for not freezing the free private water testing program and encouraged other members to do the same.

8. Meeting Adjournment

RESOLUTION NO. COUNCIL - 18/24

Moved by: Barbara Dobreen

Seconded by: Nadia Dubyk

THAT the April 15, 2024 Council meeting be adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:47 p.m.

Attachments to minutes can be found on the Conservation Ontario Council Members' page: (<https://conservationontario.ca/members/council/council-meetings/2024-council-meetings>)



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

BD19/24

From: Kevin Money, Director of Conservation Services

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Subject: Notice of Invasive Species Hydrilla Verticillata Detected in West Cell, HMCA

Compliance Action: [Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27](#)
[O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services](#)
[Invasive Species Act, 2015, S.O. 2015, c. 22 – Bill 37](#)
[Fisheries Act \(R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14\)](#)

Recommendation: THAT Report BD19/24 be received for consideration, as there will be the potential for budget implications, and further,

THAT Administration enter into an agreement to implement initial treatment of the Hillman Marsh West Cell with Procellacor as described in BD 19/24.

Summary

- ERCA received notice on June 30, 2024, of the detection of an invasive species located in the West Cell at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area by a group of scientists from the University of Waterloo assisting ERCA with the Hillman Marsh Restoration Plan who were conducting sampling in that cell. This incident was reported to ERCA and the Ministry, Natural Resources and Forestry on July 2, 2024, by Dr. Rebecca Rooney of the University of Waterloo.
- Hydrilla Verticillata, is the invasive species that has been detected. Hydrilla is present on every continent, however had not been observed in Canada until now. This invasive species will completely out compete the natural aquatic vegetation present within a wetland community and has the potential to spread to other nearby watercourses.
- A multi-agency task group was hurriedly assembled with representation from ERCA staff, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Invasive Species Centre, and Ontario Fishers, Anglers and Hunters. In addition, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) were contacted and sent the preliminary information resulting from this sampling. ERCA staff are actively participating in ongoing meetings and discussions and with senior levels with respect to determining further action.
- Full containment of the West cell was immediately implemented. ERCA staff assisted MNR with field surveys of the Hillman Marsh, Hillman and Lebo Creek lower reaches. No further observations of Hydrilla were detected.

- There is an urgency that ERCA proceed with an application of herbicidal control as this species propagates at an alarming rate. Funding discussions for herbicide application measures are ongoing with support expected at the provincial and potentially federal agency levels.

Background

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla Verticillata*) is an invasive perennial aquatic plant thought to have originated in Asia or Africa and originally introduced to North America in the early 1950s possibly via the aquarium trade. It can grow at exceptional rates (2.5cm/day) which provides it with a competitive advantage over native aquatic plant species. Hydrilla forms monoculture colonies of vegetation, by aggressively outcompeting native aquatic plants, and these dense colonies can impede recreational activities such as boating, swimming and angling. It can also interfere with infrastructure, including water intake structures, navigation canals and locks, and hydroelectric facilities.

Hydrilla is classified as a prohibited invasive species in Ontario Regulation 354/16 under the Invasive Species Act, 2015. The detection of hydrilla in Hillman Marsh at the end of June 2024 is the first detection of the species in Canada (detection map attached).

Preliminary Investigation / Action

The Ministry of Natural Resource (MNR), Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and a multi-agency task force have taken measures to evaluate the extent of the Hydrilla invasion and reduce risks of further spread. Preliminary investigation has shown that Hydrilla has only been detected in the West Cell at Hillman Marsh. There was no detection in the channel connecting the Pump House to Hillman Creek, within the Shorebird Cell, or in the West cell in proximity to the pump intake. The West Cell at HMCA is fully contained by a dyke and water levels are managed/controlled through a pumping system which provides for the area to be completely isolated from nearby watercourses and adjacent wetland areas.

ERCA has initiated closure of access to the West Cell to prevent human and domestic pets from potentially accidentally coming into contact with the plant and potentially carrying it to other areas. Additionally, as ERCA's fall hunting program had already been initiated (hunting blinds drawn and awarded), program participants were notified that with preliminary detection and ongoing investigation of the potential for invasive species, that the program in the fall was to be modified. Staff have advised participants that other provisions have been made for blinds originally located in the West cell to be relocated and the West Cell and surrounding area is to be avoided. Signage will be installed as required with funding assistance also being provided. ERCA Administration will be considering further modifications to limiting access to Hillman Marsh subject to ongoing discussion with senior levels of the multi-agency task force.

The agreed-on action plan being an integrated management approach, is for a fall 2024 control and treatment at the site will focus on three rapid response actions: 1) controlling possibility of further spread by limiting access to the site; 2) herbicide application treatment (Procellacor); and 3) possible water drawdowns to encourage consumption of herbicide to promote eradication. Actions 2 and 3 pose a need to address legislative responsibility for DFO's fish and fish habitat protection mandate.

Administration has already publicly posted that this area closed to all recreational activities, including hunting and boating, to prevent the further spread of Hydrilla. (Sign Attached).

Herbicide application

Herbicide application is the only viable option for controlling hydrilla as manual removal methods promote plant fragmentation which can further intensify or spread the infestation. Procellacor is the only certified herbicide for hydrilla control in Canada. Procellacor does not pose risk to fish or other aquatic wildlife and is a targeted, systemic herbicide which further limits impact to non-target plant species. This herbicide has no restrictions for recreational purposes, including swimming and fishing. Procellacor will be applied to the West Cell using an air boat to minimize impacts to the marsh and reduce possibilities of further dispersing Hydrilla plant fragments.

The project for control and treatment of the Hydrilla infestation is long term and could take five to ten years to complete. It is critical that ERCA initiate treatment immediately to reduce further production of roots and tubers which affect the total timeframe of required herbicide treatments and these proposed actions may reduce threat of further spread.

Procurement

Only applicators trained and certified by the manufacturer of ProcellaCOR are allowed to purchase and use this selective herbicide and there are limited number of trained, certified applicators in Ontario. Administration is proposing to seek quotes from qualified contractors who meet corporate compliance requirements, and who can complete the herbicide application this fall before the plants stop growing and the herbicide treatment no longer works. Anticipated costs for the fall 2024 application may well exceed \$100,000. Administration proposes to proceed with the lowest quote, subject to favourable review by Administration, in compliance with ERCA's purchasing policy.

Funding

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is the founding partner for the Invasive Species Center in Ontario. Grant funding from the Invasive Species Center is in the process of being confirmed to implement a rapid response in year one. This proposed funding will flow from the ISC through to ERCA to cover costs associated with the selective herbicide treatment, initial public education and required communications, along with partnerships with the universities of Windsor and Waterloo wetland research labs to undertake select wetland bottom coring to assist in future treatment decision making. Administration will be consulting with other provincial and federal agencies for further grant funding to support the eradication of this invasive species. It is anticipated that all costs will be funded by grants, other than ERCA staff time. As this is a multi-year initiative, updated reports will be provided to the Board of Directors, as required.

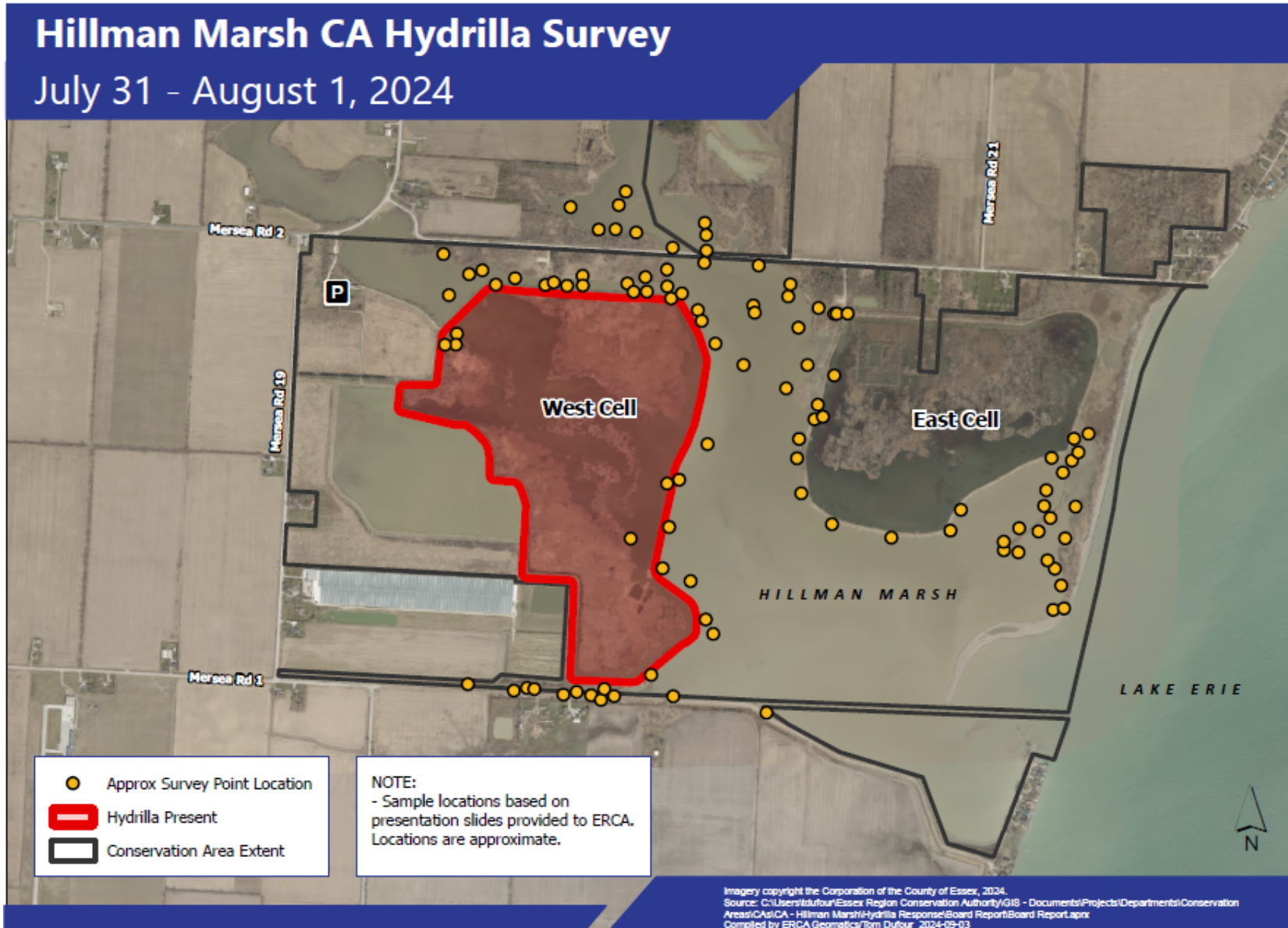
Approved By:



Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:

- [Province of Ontario, Invasive Species - Hydrilla](#)
- Hillman Marsh Conservation Area Hydrilla Survey
- Public signage installed at Hillman Marsh
- Media Release issued September 4, 2024



Attachment: Sample of signage installed at Hillman Marsh





Invasive
Species
Centre



Essex Region Conservation

the *place* for life

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

Media Release

Aquatic Invasive Species, Hydrilla, Found in Ontario and Canada for the First Time at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area

Essex Region – The aquatic invasive plant, hydrilla, has been detected for the first time in Ontario and Canada in the West Cell at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area located in Leamington, Ontario.

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) can grow up to 2.5 centimeters per day and to lengths of 7.5 meters. This rapid growing invasive species can choke out native species and clog water intake pipes, boat motors and impede other recreational activities like swimming and paddling. Hydrilla is a prohibited invasive species under Ontario's *Invasive Species Act* 2015.

Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) is working closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Invasive Species Centre, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and many other partners to evaluate the extent of the infestation, contain the spread, and develop plans to control this invasive species. To date, surveys have shown the infestation to be limited to the contained wetland area of the West Cell of Hillman Marsh that is not directly connected to Lake Erie.

In a pro-active effort to contain the spread of this invasive plant, ERCA will be immediately closing the West Cell of Hillman Marsh, including the trail and boardwalk, to boating, walking and hunting. Hydrilla is easily spread when boat propellers, kayaks, canoes, trailers, fishing and hunting gear, pets or people inadvertently carry attached plant fragments to new areas. The Conservation Authority is asking the public for assistance in refraining from accessing this area.

"Ontario recognizes the importance of the prevention, early detection and management of invasive species that pose a threat to Ontario's native species and ecosystems. If left unchecked, hydrilla – an aggressive aquatic plant – has the potential to severely impact navigation, recreation, and aquatic life," said Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources. "That's why we're working diligently with our partners to develop plans for its control."

"The detection of this highly aggressive water plant is alarming," says Kevin Money, Director of Conservation Services, ERCA. "Most concerning is its ability to significantly disrupt, alter and outcompete the natural ecosystem. We take its detection within our wetland with the utmost seriousness and are proactively taking all steps we can to contain it, including, unfortunately, halting recreational activities within the cell and its surrounding area."

“This is the first time that hydrilla has been found in Ontario and Canada, so we are encouraging people to learn how to identify hydrilla, report it and clean, drain, dry your boat to help prevent the spread of this serious invasive plant from Hillman Marsh” says Sydney Currier, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Invasive Species Centre.

“When my team from the Waterloo Wetland Lab found an unusual underwater plant, we suspected that it could be hydrilla,” says Dr. Rebecca Rooney, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Waterloo and Director of the Waterloo Wetland Lab. “Because hydrilla is so easily spread, we must be vigilant with control measures and thoroughly decontaminate any equipment used in the marsh, above and beyond typical cleaning procedures.”

What Community Members Can Do

People can help prevent the further spread of hydrilla by:

- Learning how to recognise hydrilla by visiting the Invasive Species Centre [Hydrilla Species Profile](#), [MNR Profile](#), Ontario’s Invading Species [Awareness Program Profile](#)
- Reporting sightings of hydrilla through the [EDDMapS](#) or [iNaturalist](#) websites or mobile device applications or by calling the Invading Species Hotline 1 (800) 563-7711. A good report includes an accurate location of the sighting and photos.
- [Clean, drain, and dry](#) your watercraft, including motorized boats, canoes, and kayaks. It’s the law in Ontario.



Image 1: Hydrilla detection announced



Image 2: How to identify invasive hydrilla

-30-

About ERCA

The Essex Region Conservation Authority is a public sector organization established by the Province of Ontario in 1973 and governed by local municipalities. For 50 years, it has delivered programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island region.

About the Invasive Species Centre

The Invasive Species Centre is a not-for-profit organization that mobilizes action against invasive species that harm the environment, economy, and society in Canada and beyond. Visit our website at www.invasivespeciescentre.ca to learn about invasive species, get information, take training courses, register for events, sign up to receive news, and take action on invasive species.

For more information please contact:

Danielle Breault Stuebing
 Essex Region Conservation Authority
 Director Communications and Outreach
dstuebing@erca.org
 519-563-9679 (cell)
 519-776-5209 ext.352



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

BD20/24

From: Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: Monday, August 26, 2024

Subject: 2025 Board Meeting Schedule

Strategic Action: All Actions

Recommendation: THAT the ERCA Board of Directors 2025 meeting schedule as outlined in Report BD20/24 be approved.

Discussion

The Essex Region Conservation Authority meets seven to nine times annually. The Annual General Meeting of the Authority is held in January. The May and October Board meetings are scheduled as tentative (at the call of the Chair) depending on ERCA business or other matters that may require Board discussion. The Executive Committee has tentative meeting dates (at the call of the Chair) in March, July and August to ensure business of the Authority continues when consultation with the Board is required.

Other than as noted below, regular ERCA meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month but for some exceptions in February and June 2023 (third Thursday of the month) to accommodate budget and financial reporting and, to avoid a potential conflict with a historical prescheduled municipal industry event in May, for a meeting held at the Call of the Chair.

Meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and in-person meetings are held at the County of Essex Civic Centre in Council Chambers. There are provisions in the Administrative By-laws that allow for meetings to be held electronically in the event of an emergency. Until such time as the By-laws are amended and technical supports in place to allow for electronic meetings, regular meetings will be held in person. Any open public meetings held electronically will be broadcast live through ERCA's YouTube channel.

In keeping with the above, Administration is proposing the following meeting dates for 2025 Board of Directors Meetings:

- January 23 – Annual General Meeting
- February 13
- April 10
- May 7 – (Wednesday) At the Call of the Chair
- June 19
- September 11
- October 9 – At the Call of the Chair

- November 13
- December 11

Executive Meetings are at the Call of the Chair and tentatively scheduled for the following dates:

- March 13
- July 10
- August 14

For reference, ERCA offices will be closed on the following Statutory Holidays and non-Statutory days:

- January 1 (New Years)
- February 17 (Family Day)
- April 18 (Good Friday)
- April 21 (Easter Monday)
- May 19 (Victoria Day)
- July 1 (Canada Day)
- August 4 (Civic Holiday)
- September 1 (Labour Day)
- October 13 (Thanksgiving)
- November 11 (Remembrance Day)
- December 24 (per Collective Agreement)
- December 25 (Christmas Day)
- December 26 (Boxing Day)
- December 31 (per Collective Agreement)

Approved By:



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:

None



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

BD21/24

From: James Bryant, P.Eng., Director of Watershed Management Services

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Subject: Draft Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

Legislative Action: [Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27](#)
[Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services](#)

Recommendation: THAT Report BD21/24 and the Draft Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy be received for Member's information.

Summary

- Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy is required by legislation to be completed by December 31, 2024, and must include public consultation.
- ERCA Administration has prepared a draft strategy and is available for public comment.
- The completed strategy is anticipated to be brought to the Board of Directors for approval during the December 12th, 2024, Board Meeting.

Discussion

Several past Board Reports outlined the numerous legislated actions that conservation authorities must take by the end of December 31, 2024. One such requirement is the completion of a Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (herein referred to as a "Watershed Strategy"), which is required as per Section 21.1 of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) and Section 12 of [Ontario Regulation 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services](#).

ERCA Administration is currently preparing its Watershed Strategy to meet the provisions set out in the CA Act and O. Reg. 686/21. A draft of ERCA's Watershed Strategy is appended to this report. Necessary components of the Watershed Strategy, as specified in the regulation, include the following:

- 1) Guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of ERCA's programs and services.
- 2) A summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information on the natural resources that ERCA relies on to directly inform and support the delivery of programs and services.
- 3) A review of ERCA's programs and services to:

- a) Determine if the programs and services comply with the regulations;
 - b) Identify and analyze issues and risks that limit the effectiveness of the delivery of these programs and services; and
 - c) Identify actions to address the issues and mitigate risks identified by the review and provide a cost estimate for the implementation of those actions.
- 4) A process for periodic review and updating of the Watershed Strategy that includes procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and updating process.

The Watershed Strategy, which is required to be completed by December 31, 2024, will ultimately set some guiding principles and objectives for the Authority, its *Mandatory Program and Services* (Category 1 Services), *Municipal Services* (Category 2 Services), and *Other Programs and Services* (Category 3 Services). The strategy will also assist ERCA with enhancing the delivery of its Mandatory Programs and Services by assessing any challenges, identifying risks that impact service delivery, and providing mitigative measures to ensure such challenges and risks are adequately addressed. Finally, this strategy will help identify desirable future programs, services, and actions that will help ERCA meet its objectives and long-term goals.

As outlined in the regulation, conservation authorities are required to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the preparation of the strategy “in a manner that the authority considers advisable”. To satisfy this requirement, ERCA has made the draft strategy available on its website for a period of not less than 30 days, beginning September 9th, 2024. Any stakeholder group or members of the public may provide feedback to ERCA via email at watershedstrategy@erca.org.

ERCA’s next steps to complete the Watershed Strategy are listed below.

Item No.	Action Item	Timeframe
1	Draft Watershed Strategy to be made available for a period of not less than 30 days.	Sep 9, 2024 – Oct 9, 2024 (minimum)
2	Finalize “Program Effectiveness Review” and estimate probable costs associated with mitigation measures.	Sep 16, 2024 – Nov 1, 2024
3	Complete the Study/Report Inventory (Appendix 2)	Sep 16, 2024 – Nov 1, 2024
4	Complete the Strategy, including graphics and AODA requirements.	Nov 4, 2024 – Nov 29, 2024
5	Report back to the Board of Directors with a final Watershed Strategy for approval.	December 12, 2024

Approved By:



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:

- Draft Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy



Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

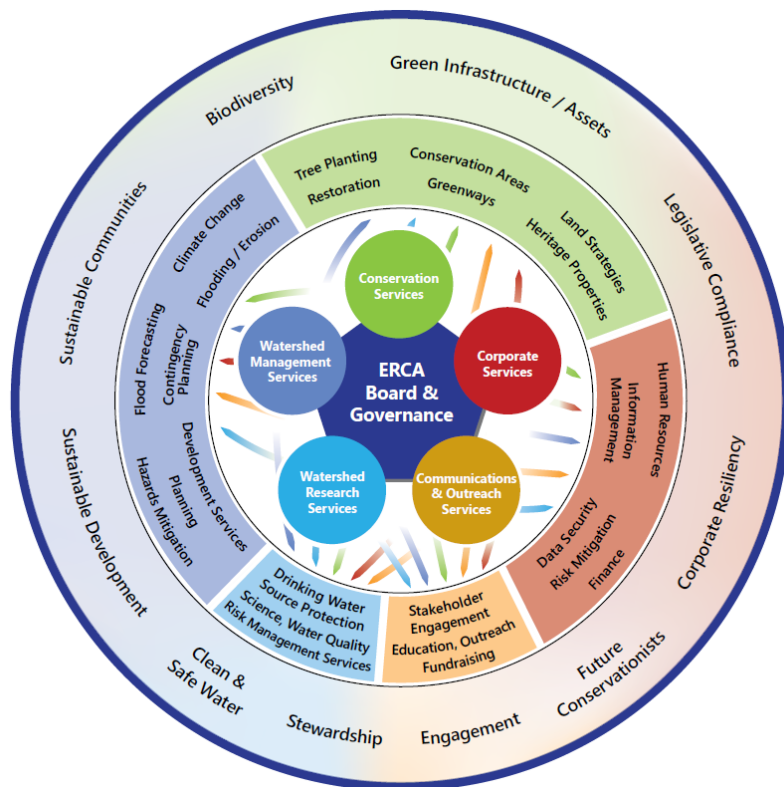
Short Title: Watershed Strategy

Preface

This document is currently in DRAFT. Should there be any requirements related to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), please contact our office.

This Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy (“Watershed Strategy”) has been prepared by the Essex Region Conservation Authority to meet the provisions set out under Section 21.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and *Ontario Regulation 686/21* under this Act. This Watershed Strategy was prepared using the Conservation Authorities Act and its Regulations, the Conservation Ontario Guidance Document, ERCA resources, and draft content from other conservation authorities. The considerable efforts by all of those across the province, within Conservation Ontario and other conservation authorities, is appreciated and helped form the foundation of ERCA’s strategy.

ERCA applies an Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) approach, which requires an understanding of the interactions between our environment, the economy, and society. At the core of everything that ERCA does to better understand, preserve, and enhance our region, is ERCA’s Board of Directors and ERCA’s five key service areas. Through the Board’s sound governance and oversight, along with Administration’s effort in delivering the various interconnected programs



within these service areas, ERCA continues to gain a better understanding of the watershed. It is through this approach that ERCA will continue to protect the region’s resources, people and property, and address the escalating environmental challenges the region faces now and will face in the future. The Program Integration Model above demonstrates the linkages between each of the various programs and services, both Mandatory and Non-Mandatory, which are all crucial to achieving a healthy, sustainable future for residents across Windsor-Essex and Pelee Island.

Table of Contents

Preface	i
Introduction	1
Purpose and Legislative Context.....	1
Background.....	1
About the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA).....	3
Watershed Characterization	5
Watershed Challenges/Vulnerabilities.....	5
Riverine and Shoreline Flooding.....	5
Erosion (Rivers, Creeks, Streams, and Soil).....	8
Erosion Control (Shoreline).....	9
Water Quality.....	9
Biological Resources, Natural Areas and Features.....	10
Guiding Principles and Objectives	11
ERCA Strategic Plan.....	11
Guiding Principles.....	12
Objectives.....	13
Program and Service Areas	14
Program and Service Compliance Review.....	15
Program and Service Effectiveness Review (Risk Review)	15
Watershed Management Services (WMS).....	16
Development Services.....	16
Watershed/Water Resources Engineering.....	16
Flood Management / Flood Forecasting and Warning.....	16
Watershed Planning.....	16
WMS Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures.....	16
Conservation Services.....	19
Conservation Lands Management & Public Conservation Areas.....	19
Tree Planting & Restoration on ERCA-Owned Lands.....	19
Tree Planting & Restoration on Other Lands.....	19

Capital Projects	20
Land Securement & Acquisition.....	20
Management of Holiday Beach Conservation Area.....	20
Conservation Services Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures.....	20
Source Water Protection & Watershed Research	21
Drinking Water Source Protection.....	21
Watershed Science and Water Quality.....	21
Watershed Research Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures.....	22
Communications & Outreach Services	24
Communications	24
Outdoor Education.....	24
Outreach & Engagement.....	25
JRPH Museum Operations & Programming.....	25
Communications & Outreach Services Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures	25
Public Consultation	27
Periodic Review	27
Resources	27
Appendices.....	27
Appendix A – Inventory of Programs and Services.....	27
Appendix B – Study Inventory.....	27

Introduction

Purpose and Legislative Context

Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) has prepared this Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy (herein referred to as the “Watershed Strategy”) to meet the provisions set out under Section 21.1 of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) (CA Act) and [Ontario Regulation 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services](#). Components of the Watershed Strategy specified in Ontario Regulation 686/21 include:

- 1) Guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of ERCA’s programs and services.
- 2) A summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information on the natural resources that ERCA relies on to directly inform and support the delivery of programs and services.
- 3) A review of ERCA’s programs and services to:
 - a) Determine if the programs and services comply with the Regulations;
 - b) Identify and analyze issues and risks that limit the effectiveness of the delivery of these programs and services; and
 - c) Identify actions to address the issues and mitigate risks identified by the review and providing a cost estimate for the implementation of those actions.
- 4) A process for periodic review and updating of the Watershed Strategy that includes procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and updating process.

This Strategy sets out some guiding principles and objectives of the Authority, its *Mandatory Program and Services* (Category 1 Services), *Municipal Services* (Category 2 Services), and *Other Programs and Services* (Category 3 Services). The Strategy will assist ERCA with enhancing the delivery of its Mandatory Programs and Services by assessing any challenges, identifying risks that impact service delivery, and providing mitigative measures to ensure such challenges and risks are adequately addressed. Finally, this strategy also identifies desirable future programs, services, and actions that will help ERCA meet its objectives and long-term goals.

Background

In 2016, the ERCA Board of Directors approved the current Strategic Plan. This plan is a 10-year plan (2016 to 2025) and provides the foundation for ERCA’s direction as it relates to programs and services based on a complex hierarchy of Strategic Directions, Strategic Actions, Goals and Actions. This plan underwent extensive public consultation, where the feedback guided ERCA’s

focus to creating a future of sustainability for the organization and the region for the subsequent decade, ending in 2025.

On October 1, 2021, Ontario Regulation 687/21 under the Conservation Authorities Act came into effect. This regulation outlined the steps that were to be taken by all conservation authorities to develop an inventory of programs and services and to enter into agreements with participating municipalities to fund non-mandatory programs through municipal contribution agreements.

Shortly after the legislative changes occurred in October 2021, Ontario Regulation 686/21 was enacted on January 1, 2022. This regulation prescribes the mandatory programs and services that all conservations authorities must provide. All programs and services that a conservation authority delivers must be categorized into one or more of three categories, as described below.

Category 1 CAA Section 21.1 Mandatory Programs and Services	Category 2 CAA Section 21.1.1 Municipal Programs and Services	Category 3 CAA Section 21.1.2 Other Programs and Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and services that all CAs must provide within their jurisdiction. • Eligible for costs to be apportioned to participating municipalities (levy) without an agreement. • Funded through municipal levy, user fees, and/or grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and services that a CA agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality. • Eligible for costs to be apportioned to participating municipalities if there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other agreement. • Funded through municipal service & contribution agreement, user fees, and/or grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and services that a CA determines are advisable to further the purpose of the CA Act. • Eligible to be apportioned wholly or partially to a municipality through a cost apportionment agreement. • Funded through municipal service & contribution agreement, user fees, and/or grants.

Since the enactment of the above noted regulations, ERCA has completed the necessary Inventory of Programs and Services and executed the necessary agreements for Category 2 and 3 programs and services.

Further to the categorization of programs and services and execution of necessary agreements, and as required by Ontario Regulation 686/21, this Watershed Strategy includes a review of the programs and services to help inform administration and the Board of Directors of any gaps or risks in program or service delivery, actions to mitigate such gaps or risks, along with potential costs associated with implementing such actions. This strategy also consolidates the latest

scientific data and technical information as it relates to decision-making for natural hazard and resource management programs and services.

About the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)

The Essex Region Conservation Authority is empowered through provincial legislation to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. ERCA was created in 1973 as one of the last Conservation Authorities in Ontario to work toward managing natural hazards and conservation issues.

Located at the tip of Southern Ontario, ERCA has jurisdiction in nine municipalities. These include the City of Windsor, Township of Pelee and the seven municipalities in Essex County. Nineteen representatives from these communities make up the ERCA Board of Directors, which is responsible for making policy and budget decisions in accordance with the *CA Act*. ERCA’s three main watersheds include Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and Lake Erie, with 26 subwatersheds across mainland Essex County, as shown in Figure 1. Within this area, ERCA’s jurisdiction covers approximately 1,681 square kilometres of land and manages almost 1,800 hectares (roughly 4,400 acres) of natural lands to ensure long-term conservation of these important lands and features.



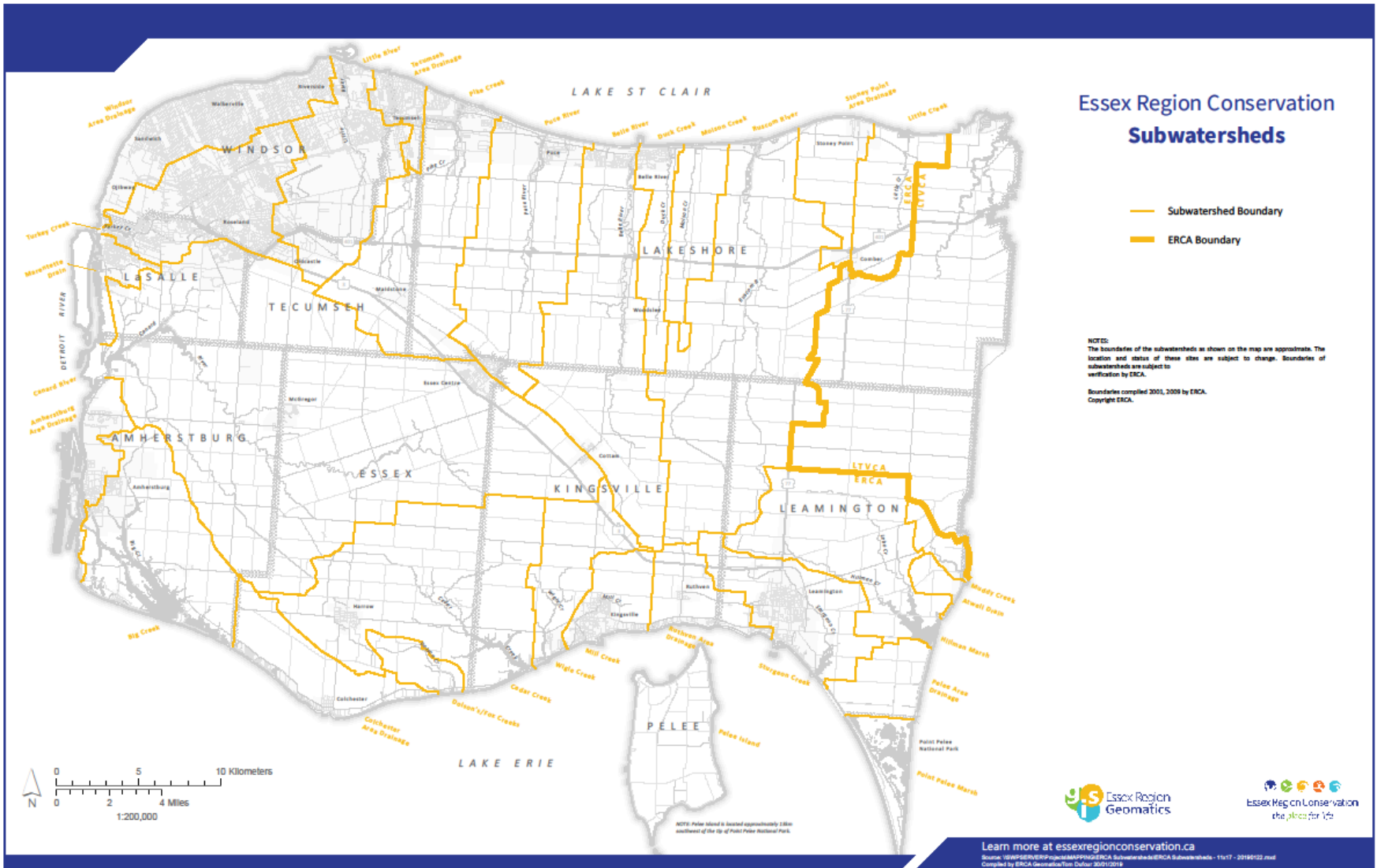


Figure 1: ERCA Jurisdictional Boundary, Member Municipalities, and Subwatersheds

Watershed Characterization

ERCA, like all Conservation Authorities, is uniquely organized on a watershed basis. A watershed is the area of land that drains to a river, creek or lake. Because we cross municipal boundaries, all environmental decisions can be assessed based on their impact on the entire watershed.

In general, ERCA has jurisdiction over approximately 1,681 square kilometers of land in southwestern Ontario, with the region comprised of the City of Windsor, most of Essex County, the Township of Pelee (Pelee Island), and several smaller Great Lakes islands, all in the most southern part of Canada. The region is an almost flat, low-lying clay plain with poorly defined divides between watersheds and poor natural drainage. Areas of sandy soil and broken topography are found in the Region's south (primarily around the community of Harrow in the Town of Essex), and southeast (primarily around the Municipality of Leamington). No single major river system drains the Region. Rather, the area is drained by numerous small rivers, streams, creeks. As a result, the Essex Region's drainage patterns is discretized into 26 subwatersheds. Figure 1 of this report provides a visual depiction of ERCA's jurisdictional boundary and the 26 subwatersheds.

Watershed Challenges/Vulnerabilities

Riverine and Shoreline Flooding

Along most of the Essex Region's watercourses and shorelines, periodic flooding is a natural occurrence. While property damage and flooding can be reduced, flooding cannot be prevented entirely. Roughly 10 percent of the Region's land area is susceptible to flooding from a 1:100-year flood, which has a 1 percent chance of occurrence in any given year. Compounding this problem is the fact that most of the Region's communities have historically been oriented to waterfront areas. Today, thousands of homes and other structures are located in floodprone areas, including roadways that could be rendered impassable during flood events.

Figure 2 below highlights the land areas susceptible to a 1:100-year flood event, both from riverine or pluvial sources and shoreline flooding caused by the wind events over the Great Lakes.

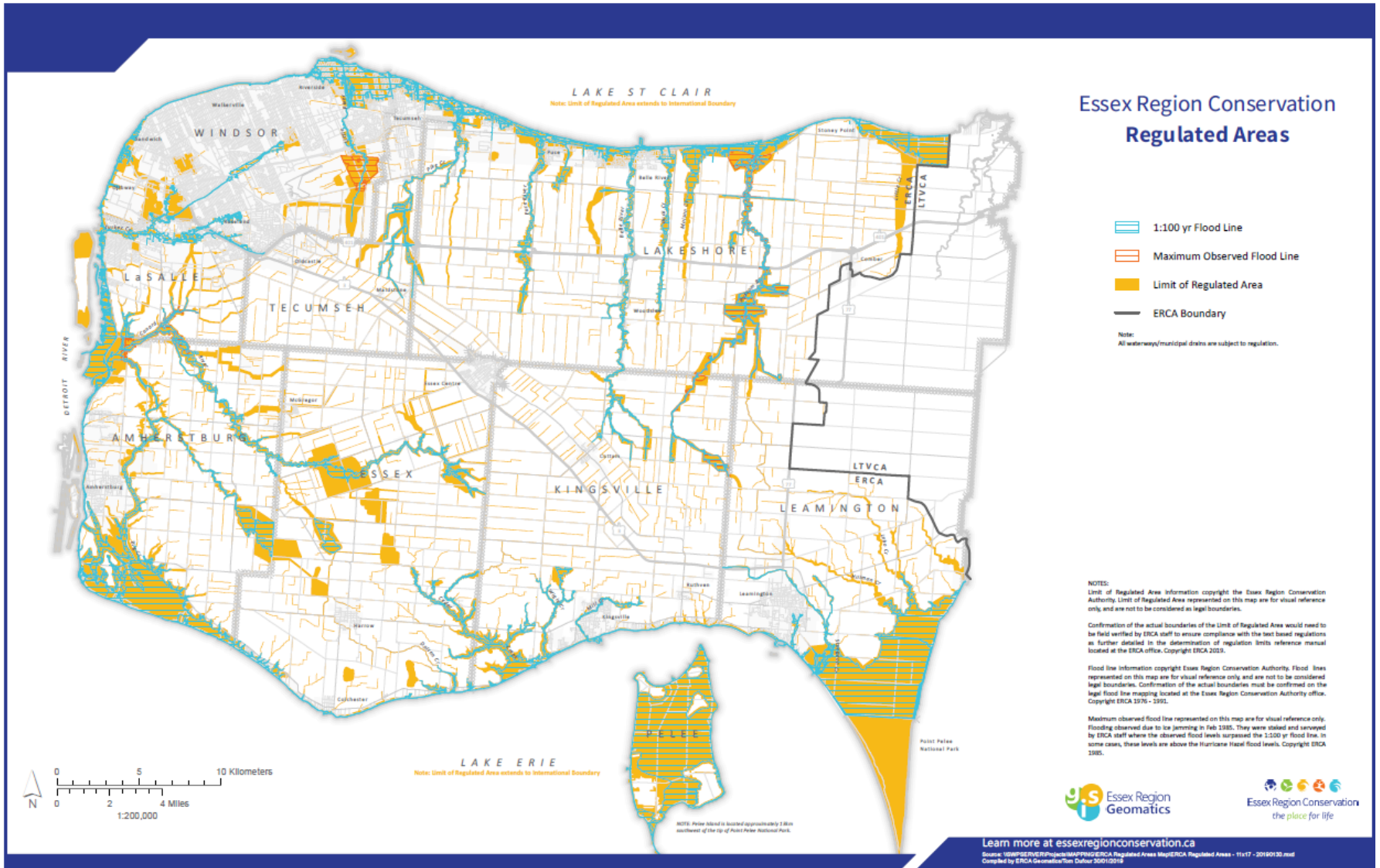


Figure 2: Areas susceptible to a 1:100-year flood event (riverine and shoreline)

The Essex Region has suffered extensive property damage and community disruption from flooding throughout its development history. Significant flood events and record high lake level periods are noted below. Flood events identified below caused either considerable property or structure damage, community disruption, or both.

Major Flood Events (1973-Present)	
Year	Description of Area
1973	The “St. Patrick’s Day Flood” occurred in March 1973 which was a severe northerly wind event causing significant flooding along the south shore of Lake St. Clair. This was an abnormally long duration wind event combined with rain and snowmelt and resulted in roughly 3,000 residents evacuating their homes and an estimated \$5M in damages.
1981	Significant rainfall in the upper reaches of the Little River Watershed (Sandwich South lands) leading to “Maximum Observed” flood levels for Section 28 regulatory purposes. The area experienced roughly 30 mm of pre-wetting rainfall 24 hours before the main storm brought roughly 80 mm. The saturated ground conditions caused significant flooding throughout the agricultural lands upstream of the E.C. Row expressway.
1985	Significant ice jamming on Canard River and Ruscom River leading to “Maximum Observed” flood levels for Section 28 regulatory purposes. Impacts on the Canard River were experienced upstream of E.T.R. railway bridge, up to Kelly Road to the north and 5 th Concession North/Disputed Road to the east. Impacts on the Ruscom River were experienced along almost the entire channel starting at the VIA Rail bridge near Lake St. Clair down to County Road 8 and down to Road 10 Kingsville in Silver Creek.
1986	Record high Great Lakes water levels leading to shoreline flooding and erosion.
1989	The “Harrow Flood” occurred July 19 and 20, 1989, which caused widespread flooding across Harrow, Colchester, and Essex County due to an intense stationary thunderstorm centered over Colchester South. This storm brought roughly 450 mm of rain within 30 hours and caused an estimated \$13.8M in damages.
1998	The “Easter Flood” or “Good Friday Flood” occurred just before Good Friday in April 1998 and was caused by strong sustained east and northeast winds over both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. The event caused flooding in several areas across Windsor-Essex with 3 main damage centres: East Riverside and Riverside Drive in the City of Windsor, the Road 1 Dike protecting farmland in the Municipality of Leamington, and the north and east shorelines of Pelee Island which needed \$0.5 to \$1.0M in repairs.

2016	The “September 2016 Storm” brought between 80 mm within a 24-hour period (recorded at the Windsor Airport) and 190 mm with the most impacted area being the Town of Tecumseh. Both Windsor and Tecumseh declared states of emergency with abandoned cars across the urban landscape with many flooded and impassable streets.
2017	The “August 2017 Storm” was a storm that lasted about 48 hours and brought rainfall amounts ranging from 100 mm on the outer edges of the storm up to 285 mm in the storm’s centre, over the headwaters of the Turkey Creek Watershed. A circular area, fully urbanized, ranging from 4 to 6.5 km in diameter experienced rainfall amounts ranging from 200 to well over 250mm. This resulted in over 2,700 flood-related calls to Windsor’s 311 line with over \$173M in insurance payouts for basement flooding claims.
2018-2021	New record high lake levels. Several flood events along the Lake Erie shoreline occurred that were caused by a combination of high lake levels and strong winds. This impacted low lying areas along the shoreline across all of Windsor and Essex County. Many properties were impacted by waves, debris, flowing and standing floodwater, with some roadways washed out during significant east and northeast winds.
2023	“The August 2023 Storm” lasted for roughly 37 hours over August 23 rd to 25 th , and brought rainfall amounts of 100 mm up to 220 mm across the southern half of Essex County. The most impacted areas on the mainland included the communities of Harrow and Colchester, both in the Town of Essex, and the Town of Kingsville. Pelee Island received roughly 200 to 240 mm of rainfall with significant impacts to their pumping systems. Lengthy stretches of roadway were closed across Essex and Kingsville with many homes flooded. The Insurance Bureau of Canada reported over \$110M in losses. Ontario activated the Disaster Recovery Assistance Program for Essex, Amherstburg, and select areas of Kingsville and Lakeshore.

Flooding has cause-and-effect relationships with several other resource management issues. Floods contribute to shoreline erosion, stream and ditch bank erosion, and field erosion. In turn, eroded materials lead to impaired water quality in the Region’s inland watercourses and in the Great Lakes. The continued decline in water quality results in decreased or deteriorated outdoor recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat.

Erosion (Rivers, Creeks, Streams, and Soil)

The Essex Region has an extensive artificial land drainage system that is susceptible to bank erosion. Poor design features such as excessively steep banks and improperly placed tile drainage outlets, together with a lack of bank vegetation and structural erosion control measures are major contributing factors to stream and ditch bank erosion. Depending on

channel velocities, eroded materials from fields and from streams and ditch banks may settle on stream beds or may be transported into the Great Lakes. In either event, channel capacity is slowly reduced through sedimentation of eroded material and water quality is reduced along with wildlife habitat and recreational activities that depend on clean water.

Soil or surface erosion is a natural process which wears away land through the actions of wind, water, ice and gravity. While soil erosion occurs in urban and rural areas, for example, lands being cleared for new development, soil erosion problems are most severe in agricultural areas. In the Essex Region, more than three quarters of the total land area is used for agriculture. To promote agriculture, the natural forest cover was removed and extensive tile drainage and artificial surface drainage was installed, such as farm tiles, ditches, and municipal drains under the *Drainage Act*. Early farming practices in the area included a mix of livestock and cash crop; however, over the decades, significant transitions have occurred in farming practices. Firstly, livestock was largely replaced by cash crops such as corn, wheat, and soybeans. More recently, farming has been industrialized through extensive greenhouse operations throughout the municipalities of Leamington and Kingsville. Such large greenhouses may reduce surface soil erosion as the land is covered with buildings, but these operations are significant contributors to in-stream erosion due to prolonged release of runoff from large stormwater management facilities. It is also well known that such greenhouses are significant contributors to nutrient loads within receiving watercourses and by extension, the Great Lake system.

Erosion Control (Shoreline)

Shoreline or coastal erosion is primarily driven by natural causes including high lake levels, wave action, and lake currents. In addition to this, development activities along shorelines can also contribute to this type of erosion. In general, the erosion can be combined with flooding of low-lying shoreline reaches, downcutting or lakebed deepening, and slope failure in the bluff areas of Essex County along the Lake Erie shoreline. As the shoreline is almost entirely urbanized or developed in some fashion, there is a greater likelihood of property damage caused by erosion than if these lands were undeveloped.

Water Quality

Water quality in the Essex Region's watercourses has been considered seriously degraded since before ERCA's inception in 1973. At that time, Turkey Creek in the Windsor/Sandwich West area had one of the worst water quality ratings in all of Ontario. Today, the worst water quality in Ontario/Canada can still be found in Essex County in Sturgeon Creek in the Municipality of Leamington. The degraded water quality can be attributed to both point and non-point source pollution.

Non-point source water pollution and erosion are closely related as the Essex Region has large land masses used for agricultural purposes with erodible finely-texture clay soils. Currently, the rapid expansion of industrial farming practices through large-scale greenhouse facilities has

caused a significant strain on water quality with nutrient loadings in some Essex County water courses at levels [X] times higher than the provincial average.

When water quality becomes degraded, other natural resources are adversely affected. Stormwater or spring runoff carrying abrasive sediments erodes stream banks and adds to the total sediment load. Excessive sediment reduces a stream's oxygen content, often killing aquatic life. Where excessive nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous are present, unwanted weeds and algae growth ensues. Sediment disposition in watercourse reduces their stormwater carrying capacity and increases the likelihood of property damage from flooding. Bacterial and toxic pollutants also destroy aquatic life and may create public health hazards. Conversely, when water quality is improved, fish and wildlife habitat is improved and additional outdoor recreation opportunities, such as swimming and boating are enhanced or created. Finally, cleaner source water ultimately leads to cleaner drinking water.

Biological Resources, Natural Areas and Features

The Essex Region's biological resources were significantly depleted by past activities including fur trade, lumbering, agriculture, and urban development. Urbanization and deforestation have continued since 1973, despite ERCA's best efforts. Nonetheless, the Essex Region has grown from 3 percent land area covered by forest and scrubland to roughly 8.5 percent due to ERCA programming and public participation.



Deterioration of the Region's biological resources has negative implications for other resource management concerns. Forest and wetland removal has increased the extent and severity of flooding within the Region. Loss of tree cover contributes to high rates of field erosion, ditch and ditch bank erosion. Eroded materials contribute to degradation of water quality and deterioration of fish and wildlife habitat.

Outdoor recreation is also affected by the depletion of biological resources. The demand for waterfowl hunting greatly exceeds the supply of opportunities. A large deficit exists in the availability of such activities and nature viewing opportunities, which are directly related to the loss or deterioration of biological habitat.

Guiding Principles and Objectives

ERCA Strategic Plan

ERCA’s Strategic Plan supports the Authority’s responsibility in helping our region and communities to ensure that the places where we live in have clean water and landscapes, are protected from natural hazards like flooding and erosion, and support healthy living through recreation and conservation. Through the Strategic Plan, ERCA’s Vision and Mission are as follows:

 <p style="text-align: center;">Vision</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Essex Region is a sustainable, resilient, and vibrant place with healthy and thriving watersheds, Great Lakes and a green culture.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Mission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improving our environment to enrich our lives.</p>
--	--

In addition to ERCA’s Vision and Mission statements, ERCA’s current Strategic Plan identified five high level Strategic Actions which are summarized below. More detail can be found in the Strategic Plan.

 <p>The climate will continue to change.</p>	 <p>The Great Lakes are our most significant natural resource.</p>	 <p>Our landscapes and habitats are among the most significant in Canada.</p>	 <p>Our urban areas will continue to grow and expand.</p>	 <p>ERCA is a sustainable, resilient, and valued agency.</p>
---	---	--	---	---

Supporting the above noted Strategic Actions, there are fifteen Goals and further sub-actions that guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Further to Strategic Plan hierarchy of Strategic Directives, Strategic Actions, Goals, and Actions, this Watershed Strategy provides new *Guiding Principles* and *Objectives* that inform the design and delivery of programs and services.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles establish the fundamental approach that drives the decision-making of the Conservation Authority. These newly established guiding principles have been developed to meet the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 686/21* and provide the context for the objectives outlined in this Strategy.

	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
1	The conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources is best implemented on a watershed basis.
2	The health and safety of watershed residents is a primary consideration for all development.
3	Everyone deserves safe drinking water.
4	The management of water and other natural resources is a shared responsibility among conservation authorities, municipalities, government agencies, and other stakeholders.
5	Resource management decisions should take into consideration a broad range of community uses, needs, and values, including ecosystem needs.
6	Engagement and collaboration lead to better and stronger ideas, actions, and outcomes.
7	Water and other natural resources are vital natural assets; they buffer the impacts of climate change, mitigate natural hazards, filter contaminants, assimilate waste, sustain biodiversity, and provide green spaces for recreation, among other community benefits.
8	Natural greenspaces are critical to the community, providing environmental, economic, social, mental, and physical health benefits.
9	Community education leads to environmental stewardship with active participation in conservation efforts to protect land and water resources.

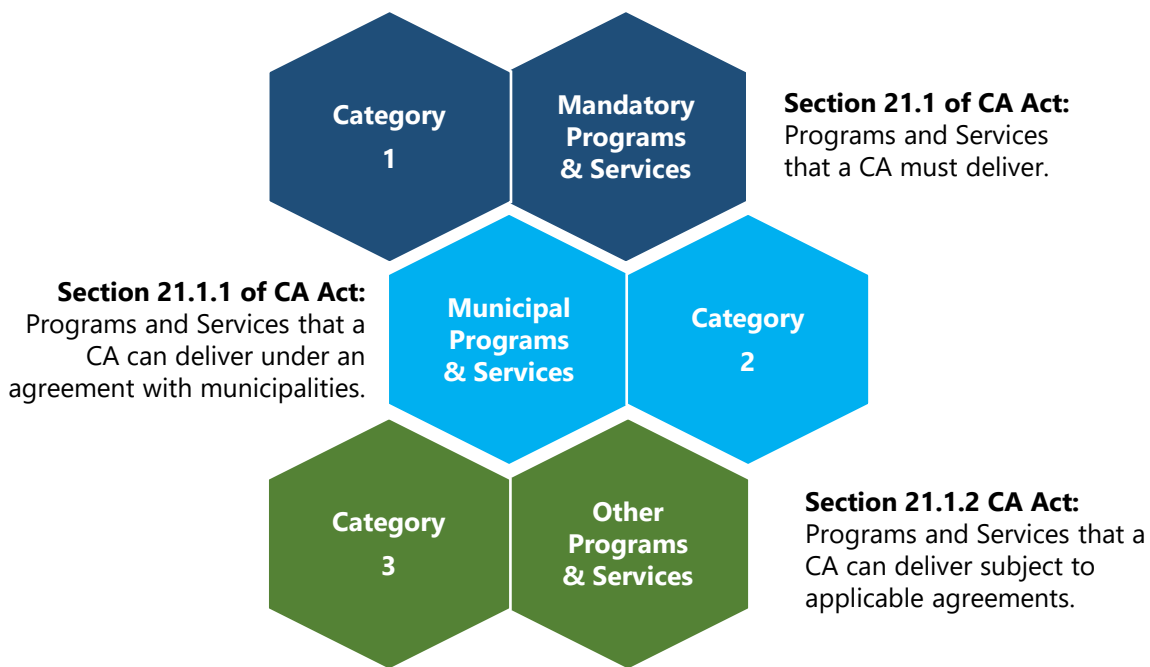
Objectives

The objectives listed below were developed to meet the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 686/21* and to further guide ERCA beyond the Strategic Plan in support of all programs and services.







	OBJECTIVES
1	To avoid, reduce, or mitigate potential risk to public health or safety or of property damage from flooding and other natural hazards and the impacts of climate change.
2	To mitigate potential risk to drinking water sources and ensure a sustainable and clean water supply for the entire watershed community and ecosystems.
3	To identify and understand key resource issues and the primary stressors that cause them.
4	To assign greater priority to the implementation of solutions which address a range of interrelated resource management concerns and have the greatest cost-benefit.
5	To characterize groundwater and surface water resource systems and other natural resources, which regulate natural hazard processes and support the hydrological and ecological integrity of the watershed.
6	To identify the causes of and potential solutions for addressing key issues.
7	To protect and maintain ERCA owned lands for public safety, natural heritage protection, outdoor recreation, and socio-economic health.
8	To research and identify potential solutions for addressing key resource issues, advocating for government funding and policies to address these issues, and adapting/developing programs and services as required.
9	To educate and engage the watershed community to promote awareness of natural hazards and watershed health, and to encourage the protection and restoration of land and water resources through stewardship action.

Program and Service Areas

The Conservation Authorities Act identifies three types of services that can be delivered by conservation authorities; these include *Mandatory Programs and Services (S. 21.1)*, *Municipal Programs and Services (S. 21.1.1)*, and *Other Programs and Services (S. 21.1.2)*. Further to the Act, *Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2 of the Act* required all conservation authorities to develop Transition Plans and an Inventory of Programs and Services. Additionally, *Ontario Regulation 687/21* also introduced the categorization of all programs and services into Categories 1, 2, and 3. More details are provided below with respect to the relationship between the type of category, the program and service areas, and the relevant section of the CA Act.



ERCA’s Programs and Services have been reviewed, modified, and categorized to ensure conformity with the CA Act and regulations. ERCA developed its Inventory of Programs and Services, which was shared with municipal watershed partners and the Province for input throughout the Transition Period. It should be noted that, while the programs and services that are considered Category 1 are required by legislation, Category 2 and 3 programs and services are essential to Category 1 program areas. For example, watershed monitoring and public education are both integral to science-based watershed knowledge and decision-making processes. The final Inventory of Programs and Services is included with this Strategy in Appendix A, which includes comprehensive details with respect to categorization of programs and service areas, relevant rationale, and sources of funding. In general, the Inventory describes the program areas as follows:

 <p>Natural Hazards Management</p>	 <p>Conservation Lands Management</p>
 <p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p>	 <p>Core Watershed-Based Resource Management Programs</p>
 <p>Outreach / Education / Other Programs</p>	 <p>General / Corporate Services</p>

Note that the implementation of the program areas listed above are delivered through several departments within the Authority, as many initiatives require coordinated, multi-faceted approaches. In general, ERCA delivers its programs and services through the following program areas, with corporate (general) services, supporting all programs:

- Watershed Management Services
- Conservation Services
- Source Water Protection and Watershed Research
- Communications and Outreach Services

Program and Service Compliance Review

The suite of programs and services that are offered by ERCA are categorized in accordance with the regulations made under Section 40(1)(b) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. More specifically, categorizations of programs and services, related agreements, and sources of funding are all compliant with applicable regulations and by extension, Clause 40(1)(b) of the Act.

Program and Service Effectiveness Review (Risk Review)

ERCA strives to deliver efficient, effective, and quality programs and services. Notwithstanding this, emerging environmental issues, legislative changes to roles and responsibilities, staffing and financial constraints can impact the Authority’s delivery of programs and services, and therefore risks related to program delivery should be analyzed. Consistent with *Ontario Regulation 686/21*, all programs and services that are provided under Section 21.1 of the *CA Act* were evaluated to determine any issues and risks that may limit the effectiveness their delivery. Following the general description of each program area below, related risks, issues, and challenges are denoted with an R# and described in table format along with associated mitigation measures, which are denoted with an M#.

Watershed Management Services (WMS)

Watershed Management Services are mandatory services and ensures that development in the region progresses in a sustainable manner and directed away from natural hazards, while protecting existing development, water resources, and natural features that contribute to flood and erosion attenuation. In general, WMS is delivered through four programs:

- Development Services (mandatory service)
- Watershed/Water Resources Engineering (mandatory service)
- Flood Management/Flood Forecasting and Warning (mandatory service)
- Watershed Planning (mandatory service)

The priority of these programs is to reduce the risk to life, property, and social disruption resulting from natural hazards.

Development Services

ERCA administers Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act by implementing *Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permit*, enacted on April 1, 2024. Through this program, ERCA regulates development within hazardous lands through a permitting and development review process, to protect people and property from naturally occurring processes associated with flooding, erosion, unstable soils, dynamic beaches, or unstable slopes.

Watershed/Water Resources Engineering

The delivery of watershed/water resources engineering supports the management of flood and erosion risk through flood plain management studies (hazard mapping) and related technical studies, inspection of and planning for water and erosion control infrastructure, stormwater management, and water resources engineering input and advice to external stakeholders.

Flood Management / Flood Forecasting and Warning











ERCA maintains a “firehall model” for Flood Forecasting and Warning, which provides advanced warning of potential riverine and/or shoreline flooding. The Authority is integrated into the five pillars of Emergency Management: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.









Watershed Planning

A ‘planning-first’ approach to natural hazards protection is implemented through the review of *Planning Act* applications that are circulated by the region’s municipalities. WMS reviews such planning applications to ensure consistency with Provincial Policy Statement and local natural hazard development policies. The ‘planning-first’ approach ensures that necessary Planning approvals are secured in advance of consideration of Section 28 approvals under the *CA Act*.

WMS Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures

Costs associated with mitigation measures are estimated to be [TBD].

Risk/Issue		Potential Mitigation	
<p>R1</p> 	<p>Frequency and severity of unlawful Section 28 activities has been increasing, creating a strain on resources. Legal Fees are not recovered through fines or the court system, but rather general rate payers.</p>	<p>M1</p> 	<p>Engage Conservation Ontario and the Province to review the possibility of fines being directed to affected CAs/Municipalities. Alternatively, additional funding is required to support legal action. ERCA will continue to maintain a legal reserve to fund unbudgeted legal expenses.</p>
<p>R2</p> 	<p>Self-generated revenue is volatile, and often correlates with general economic conditions, such as interest rates and unemployment making it challenging to predict.</p>	<p>M2</p> 	<p>Plan and budget for more reliable funding sources, including annual fee-for-service projects to help stabilize revenue.</p> <p>Continue to maintain the revenue stabilization reserve with a sub-reserve for WMS to address short-term declines in revenues.</p>
<p>R3</p> 	<p>Frozen Fee Schedule for two years by Minister's Directive has reduced fee for service revenue. Continuation of such a Directive threatens the "user pay principle".</p>	<p>M3</p> 	<p>Review fees in anticipation that the Minister's Directive expires. An extension of the Minister's Directive will impact levy.</p>
<p>R4</p> 	<p>Administration of S.28 permitting and plan review lack available resources to ensure legislated and desired service delivery targets are satisfied.</p>	<p>M4</p> 	<p>Modernize and maintain up-to-date tools and review staffing capacity against expected service delivery targets.</p> <p>Continue to migrate to PIMS 2.0 and enhance self-serve functionality, to reduce administrative burden on staff.</p>
<p>R5</p> 	<p>Hazard mapping for the inland tributaries is out of date, impacting hazard related decision-making.</p>	<p>M5</p> 	<p>Engage with municipal and third parties to establish adequate funding to leverage grant opportunities. Consider implementing special levies to ensure mapping updates progress</p>

			when no external funding is available.
<p>R6</p> 	<p>Baseline information on subwatersheds is insufficient to inform watershed plans, Master Plans, hazard modelling, and flood forecasting.</p>	<p>M6</p> 	<p>Expand climate station network and introduce flow monitoring and gauge station network. Partner with other departments to share resources to achieve shared benefits (e.g. partner with SWP on flow monitoring stations that collect water level and water quality data for shared benefits)</p>
<p>R7</p> 	<p>Rising costs of maintenance to flood and erosion control infrastructure and shortages of qualified staff, have limited the capacities of ERCA and the region’s municipalities, to formulate a coordinated response to inspection, maintenance and repairs of this infrastructure.</p>	<p>M7</p> 	<p>Discuss annual investment, special benefitting levy, or reserves with applicable municipalities and explore more grant opportunities, such as WECL.</p>
<p>R8</p> 	<p>Not all development services users understand development review processes and the connectivity with other municipal processes (e.g. <i>Planning Act</i> applications vs. S.28 Applications and their relation to municipal processes). This creates real and perceived delays and other challenges.</p>	<p>M8</p> 	<p>Develop education/outreach campaign, factsheets, and process flowcharts for public consumption.</p>
<p>R9</p> 	<p>Natural Heritage Systems, which have a positive impact on natural hazards management through flood attenuation and reduction in sedimentation, are no longer protected through CA review comments as new provisions of the <i>CA Act</i>. The slow removal of natural heritage systems will have a negative impact on floodplains and hazard lands.</p>	<p>M9</p> 	<p>Bolster ERCA's study of subwatersheds to improve understanding of potential impacts associated with natural heritage degradation. Impacts could be seen in both water quantity and quality.</p>

Conservation Services

ERCA's Conservation Services programs protect, restore, and manage natural heritage areas and systems within ERCA's watershed. This is accomplished through a system of land conservation through strategic and leveraged investment in land securement, and by identifying and implementing priority restoration projects. All Conservation Areas within the ERCA watershed are impacted on by natural hazards. Fundamental to the management of sites is the access to hazard areas for flood observation, and in the case of trails, physical access to reaches that would otherwise be inaccessible. In general, Conservation Services is delivered through the following programs:

- Conservation Land Management (mandatory service)
- Public Conservation Areas supporting passive recreation (mandatory service)
- Tree Planting & Restoration on ERCA-Owned Lands (mandatory service)
- Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration on other lands (non-mandatory service)
- Capital Projects (mandatory and non-mandatory service)
- Land Securement & Acquisition (non-mandatory service)
- Management of Holiday Beach Conservation Area (non-mandatory service)

Conservation Lands Management & Public Conservation Areas

Land management activities support the management of biological resources within the region, in line with the most current *Conservation Authorities Act*. Currently, ERCA owns or manages 18 publicly accessible properties totalling more than 1,800 hectares (roughly 4,400 acres) of land, and nearly 100 kilometres of trail. These areas help people lead healthy lifestyles by providing places to be active while connecting with nature. These areas also contribute to the local economy as tourist attractions, which continue to attract visitors to our region to experience birding, hiking, cycling and swimming.

Tree Planting & Restoration on ERCA-Owned Lands

Restoration and management of properties owned or controlled by ERCA are considered core responsibilities and categorized as mandatory activities, included in conservation of lands. ERCA has undertaken restoration such as tree planting, wetland creation and restoration, shoreline protection, prairie restoration and forest management on its properties for over 40 years. Additional details can be found in the Conservation Land Management Strategy, under a separate cover.

Tree Planting & Restoration on Other Lands

The natural resources of the Essex Region are significantly depleted as demonstrated in the Essex Region Natural Heritage Systems Strategy. To facilitate a sustainable natural heritage system, working with private land stewards is required. ERCA's private lands restoration efforts are funded by third party sources, including government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and through Category 3 non-mandatory municipal cost-apportioning agreements with all participating municipalities.

Capital Projects

Capital projects include various construction projects, which can be most often categorized as mandatory, such as bridge and culvert replacement, trail, roadway, and parking area rehabilitation and expansions, signage, and building upgrades. Other non-mandatory capital projects are managed through this program, such as the John R. Park building upgrades. A significant portion of the works included in capital projects is supported by grants when possible.

Land Securement & Acquisition







ERCA works towards the strategic purchase of lands that have the highest importance as per the most current Land Securement Strategy. The land acquisition objectives are more clearly defined in ERCA’s Conservation Land Management Strategy, under a separate cover.







Management of Holiday Beach Conservation Area

The Province of Ontario with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as its representative, is the legal owner of Holiday Beach Conservation Area, but the site is operated by the Authority via a thirty-year management agreement with the Province, which expires in the year 2031. The operational costs associated with this site are covered by user fees related to seasonal camping, hunting and cottage rentals; however, revenue generation is not sufficient to fund future capital replacement and major renovation costs. ERCA is not contractually or legislatively obligated to replace infrastructure. Recent trail and amenities improvements have been funded through government grants and contributions from the Essex Region Conservation Foundation (ERCF).

Conservation Services Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures

Costs associated with mitigation measures are estimated to be between [TBD].

Risk/Issue		Potential Mitigation	
R1 	Dated or absent property management plans.	M1 	Update Conservation Area Management Plans
R2 	Costly maintenance and repairs to infrastructure	M2 	Update the 2010 Asset Management Plan. Strategically reduce built infrastructure, if appropriate.
R3 	Management of extreme weather or lake elevation events	M3 	Design of sustainable infrastructure that withstands/accounts for extreme weather

<p>R4</p> 	<p>Lack of grant funding to implement non mandatory programs and services</p>	<p>M4</p> 	<p>Engage municipalities to assist with additional funding or reduce the scope of programs and services.</p>
<p>R5</p> 	<p>Unforeseen biological threats such as new invasive species establish in Conservation Areas</p>	<p>M5</p> 	<p>Consider implementing an invasive species remediation reserve and build a network of partnerships to assist with unforeseen biological issues.</p>
<p>R6</p> 	<p>Limited staff capacity with appropriate skills, experience and credentials, to competently undertake required maintenance.</p>	<p>M6</p> 	<p>Analyze, review, and update roles, responsibilities, job descriptions, compensation grids, and related policies, to enhance the retention of qualified staff.</p>

Source Water Protection & Watershed Research

Watershed Research endeavors to improve the health of local watercourses through agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring at the watershed and collection of landscape information through Geographic Information Services (GIS). Enhanced water quality monitoring is undertaken only when external sources of funding are available. Strengthened relationships with academic and government scientists and active participation in several ongoing research programs allows solutions to be developed that are best suited to the region’s unique ecosystem. Additionally, local sources of drinking water are protected through the implementation of policies in the Source Protection Plan and its amendments. In general, Watershed Research is delivered through the following programs:

- Source Water Protection (mandatory service)
- Watershed Science and Water Quality (mandatory and non-mandatory service)

Drinking Water Source Protection

Administered under the Clean Water Act, the watershed-based mandatory Source Protection Program is the first step in a multi-barrier approach to protect drinking water. It complements municipal water treatment and supports sound land use planning decisions. ERCA, and other conservation authorities, have designated responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that sources of municipal drinking water are safe and abundant. ERCA’s Risk Management Services, a non-mandatory Category 2 fee-for service municipal program, implements a specific subset of policies on behalf of municipalities.







Watershed Science and Water Quality


As noted earlier in this report, our region’s water quality is significantly degraded and has some of the worst water quality scores in Ontario. Healthy rivers, headwaters, and species in our watershed are key elements of a sustainable and healthy environment that we all rely on for our sources of drinking water, our economy and for recreation. The ability to track and report on changes to these indicators of healthy watersheds and share that knowledge helps assess and

understand current health and emerging trends as a basis for setting environmental management priorities, identify research gaps to work with academic and other research partners to address, and manage, protect or enhance watershed resources. ERCA undertakes its watershed science programs through partnerships with the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), and the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), both of which are mandatory programs in the CA Act. Additionally, ERCA works in partnership with Provincial and Federal programs and with universities, including the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER), at the University of Windsor to bolster the existing mandatory program. This information is analysed and presented to the public every 5 years in ERCA's Watershed Report Card, which grades watersheds from A (Excellent) to F (Very Poor) in four categories: Surface Water Quality, Groundwater Quality, Forest Conditions, and Restoration Efforts.

Watershed Research Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures

Costs associated with mitigation measures are estimated to be between [TBD].

Risk/Issue		Potential Mitigation	
R1 	Limited municipal capacity and high staff turnover affects implementation of the Source Protection Plan.	M1 	Provide annual training for municipal staff. Maintain ongoing communication with and provide support to municipal staff.
R2 	Provision of Part IV services (Risk Management Services) is built on a model of shared costs for all municipalities with a renewed agreement every three years. Also, the historical funding model has provided for cost recovery only, based on actual time & materials, rather than consideration of a more sustainable funding model	M2 	Ensure agreement is negotiated and renewed in a timely manner. Consider four-year agreements to coincide with terms of municipal councils. Ensure full program cost recovery as well as base-level/minimum funding support to enhance ongoing program delivery and sustainability.
R3 	Dated watershed characterization information hinders ability to refine source protection policies as required to protect sources of drinking water.	M3 	Create a method by which drainage features can be updated at least annually using up to date municipal drain information and detailed GIS products (e.g. DEM, large scale hydrology).

<p>R4</p> 	<p>Extensive highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas but no ability to apply source protection outside of municipal residential surface water intake protection zones.</p>	<p>M4</p> 	<p>Explore the use of the MECP's Best Practices for private wells. Ensure proponents with projects that could impact groundwater are aware of these sensitive areas.</p>
<p>R5</p> 	<p>Limited internal staff capacity can cause delays in delivery of some source water activities.</p>	<p>M5</p> 	<p>Increase capacity to include support staff. Refer to M9 for other mitigation strategies.</p>
<p>R6</p> 	<p>Available resources to respond to emerging concerns (e.g. pesticides, PFAS).</p>	<p>M6</p> 	<p>Continue to seek out partnerships and apply for grants.</p>
<p>R7</p> 	<p>Ongoing financial support for watershed monitoring (e.g. PWQMN, PGMN, special projects).</p>	<p>M7</p> 	<p>Continue to seek out partnerships and apply for grants to maintain and enhance monitoring programs.</p>
<p>R8</p> 	<p>Ongoing financial and administrative support for stewardship and outreach programs targeting the implementation of Best Management Practices to improve water quality.</p>	<p>M8</p> 	<p>Continue to seek out partnerships and apply for grants. Cross-promote provincial and federal incentive programs locally. Provide ongoing education to landowners and additionally, to municipal stakeholders and decision-makers, on the importance of BMPs in improving downstream water quality.</p>
<p>R9</p> 	<p>Retention of highly qualified personnel is difficult to achieve due to classification of most research-related programs as non-mandatory, resulting in an over reliance on term-limited government project grants. The mandatory Drinking Water Source Protection program does not require full-time positions and ERCA must rely on the third-party/gov't funded term-limited projects to fund a full-time position(s).</p>	<p>M9</p> 	<p>Include the water quality program in the ERCF's Partners in Sustainability campaign and actively promote the WQ research program to corporate donors.</p> <p>Continue to lobby the provincial government through Conservation Ontario, for a re-classification of water quality programs which support the DWSP program, to mandatory programs.</p>

		<p>Include a higher level of financial support in the next iteration of Category 3 municipal cost apportionment agreements, to support a .5 FTE water quality specialist position, on an ongoing basis , which could be matched by funding from the ERCF.</p>
--	--	---

Communications & Outreach Services

Communications and Outreach Services support all business units of the Authority. This includes supporting flood messaging, disseminating natural hazard information, engaging landowners in conservation practices and climate action, educating students of all ages about environmental sustainability, promotion of and engagement in tree planting and restoration, connecting people to nature through a variety of programs and events, identifying the value of natural connections to our health, and communicating broadly with stakeholder groups and watershed residents.

Communications efforts also support revenue-generating activities for conservation areas and other programs. Providing stewardship and educational opportunities to residents living within our watersheds is important and critical to conservation success across the region. Providing hands on opportunities for people to connect with nature and take action for the environment will raise awareness about broader local environmental needs, including but not limited to expanding natural areas coverage and protecting mature forests. In general, Communications & Outreach Services is delivered through the following programs:

- Communications (mandatory service)
- Outdoor Education (non-mandatory service)
- Outreach & Engagement (non-mandatory)
- JRPH Museum Operations & Programming (non-mandatory)

Communications

Corporate communication is included as a mandatory service as it supports the communication needs of the Authority’s mandatory functions, including critical flood messaging, to various audiences across multiple platforms. This includes annual reporting, stakeholder relations, engagement through traditional and social media, media relations and other communications priorities.

Outdoor Education

ERCA’s Outdoor Education programs provide experiential environmental programs and services for kindergarten to grade 12 students and teachers, meeting the objectives of the provincial curriculum. While outdoor education is identified as non-mandatory, significant fundraising

through the ERCF has significantly reduced the reliance on cost apportionment, to continue to deliver these vital conservation education programs.

Outreach & Engagement





ERCA provides opportunities for the region’s communities to engage in environmental restoration activities such as tree planting events on private, municipal, and on ERCA-owned lands. Grants and funding opportunities are continuously explored to support this non-mandatory yet vital program.

JRPH Museum Operations & Programming



While passive recreation and related maintenance costs, for conservation areas, are eligible within the mandatory cost apportionment category, the operation and preservation of the John R. Park Homestead (JRPH) Museum and other heritage buildings are identified as non-mandatory services. The property was transferred from the Province of Ontario to ERCA in 2008; however, the transfer contained several restrictive covenants and obligations, including that it be operated in accordance with the Community Museum Standards, as defined in the Ontario Heritage Act.

Communications & Outreach Services Risks and Potential Mitigation Measures

Costs associated with mitigation measures are estimated to be between [TBD].

Risk/Issue		Potential Mitigation	
R1 	Capacity for responding to communications’ demands, related to informing and educating stakeholders and communities, is challenging due to staff capacity and budget constraints (including limitations associated with mandatory vs non-mandatory programming).	M1 	Seek innovative ways to increase capacity and continue to improve efficiencies in meeting organizational communications needs.
R2 	Lack of comprehensive understanding of ERCA mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services, is often a barrier to obtaining financial support and collaboration with partners.	M2 	Continue to communicate with watershed stakeholders through a variety of channels to build knowledge and awareness of ERCA’s programs and their importance to this region’s environmental sustainability. Utilize and capitalize on the membership of ERCA’s two appointed ERCF board members to

			promote and champion ERCA's funding needs for non-mandatory programs.
R3 	Busing can be cost prohibitive for students to partake in experiential education programs at conservation areas. Bussing availability and providers are limited.	M3 	Continue to innovate experiential programs like Nature Near You, delivered at schools that cannot afford bussing. Engage the Essex Region Conservation Foundation in seeking support for bussing cost offsets to remove barriers to participation.
R4 	Ability to maximize operations and generate revenue at the JRPH is limited by staff capacity and budget constraints (including limitations associated with mandatory vs non-mandatory programming).	M4 	Continue to seek partnerships and apply for grants. Replace part-time casual staff capacity with one permanent role to facilitate continuity, accountability, and meet program and operational requirements, in accordance with the Standards for Community Museum Operations in Ontario.
R5 	Technology updates are required for digitization of collections records/collections management at the JRPH to allow public access in a virtual format, which will be required to stay current with provincial standards.	M5 	Develop a digitization strategy; pursue grant opportunities to support investment in specialized software and required hardware to digitization collections.
R6 	Poorly maintained and deteriorating heritage buildings at the JRPH limits potential operations and strains budget.	M6 	Update and account for ongoing repairs to heritage assets to be preserved in perpetuity, and other non-heritage assets through a site-specific Asset Management Plan and regular asset condition reporting. Engage the ERCF in support of ongoing museum operations, in addition to periodic capital campaigns.

			Consider engaging architectural and structural engineering consultants every ten years, to assess condition of heritage assets and to update the JRP AMP.
<p>R7</p> 	<p>On-the-ground stewardship activities such as tree planting and watershed cleanups are funded through year-to-year grant programs and individual and corporate donations, rendering this important Category 3 program at risk.</p>	<p>M7</p> 	<p>Seek longer term funding partners and multi-year donations through the ERCF to ensure continuity of stewardship and outreach programming.</p>

Public Consultation

Following the release of the draft Watershed Strategy on September 12, 2024, the document was made available on ERCA’s website for a period of 30 days with the public encouraged to provide comments by email at watershedstrategy@erca.org.

Periodic Review

This Strategy should be reviewed every four (4) years to stay current with evolving political and socio-economic matters and to address emerging watershed challenges and environmental issues. An annual review of this document by Administration will facilitate a comprehensive review every four years and will also help inform annual departmental workplans and budgets.

Stakeholders and the public should be consulted during the four-year review cycle, in a manner that aligns with the degree of revisions and meets applicable regulatory requirements.

Resources

Appendix B includes an inventory of studies that are necessary and relevant to the implementation of ERCA’s mandatory programs and services and to the development of ERCA’s Watershed Strategy.

Appendices

Appendix A – Inventory of Programs and Services

[To be included with final Strategy]

Appendix B – Study Inventory

[To be included with final Strategy]



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

BD22/24

From: Kevin Money, Director of Conservation Services
Jenny Gharib, Special Projects Technical Assistant

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Subject: Draft Conservation Area Strategy

Compliance Action: [Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27](#)
[O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services](#)

Recommendation: THAT Report BD22/24 and the Draft Conservation Area Strategy be received for Member's information.

Summary

- Recent amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act require Conservation Authorities to develop a Conservation Area Strategy to identify the programs and services that conserve, protect, rehabilitate, establish, and manage natural heritage located within authority-owned or controlled lands.
- This strategy discusses the objectives that will inform ERCA's decision-making, including decisions relating to the management of lands. The key objectives are to conserve nature, protect people from natural hazards, and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and education across the Essex region.

Discussion

Recent amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act ([Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services, subsection 9\(1\)](#)) require Conservation Authorities to develop a Conservation Area Strategy on or before, December 31, 2024 and must include the following components as outlined in Section 10(1):

1. Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.
2. Identification of the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and controlled by the authority, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.

3. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may,
 - i. augment any natural heritage located within the authority's area of jurisdiction, and
 - ii. integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority's area of jurisdiction.
4. The establishment of land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the land inventory described in section 11 based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel.
5. A process for the periodic review and updating of the conservation area strategy by the authority, including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.

A set of goals and objectives have been prepared by staff and published on ERCA's website, along with a corresponding survey, for community feedback. These goals and objectives include efforts to protect and enhance the natural areas in the Essex region, connect people to the natural environment through Conservation Areas and trails, and engage the local watershed community to increase awareness and foster a culture of sustainability. A draft of the Conservation Area Strategy, incorporating the five key requirements and preliminary feedback from the online public survey, has been prepared and is ready to be presented to the community for public consultation, following approval from the Board of Directors.

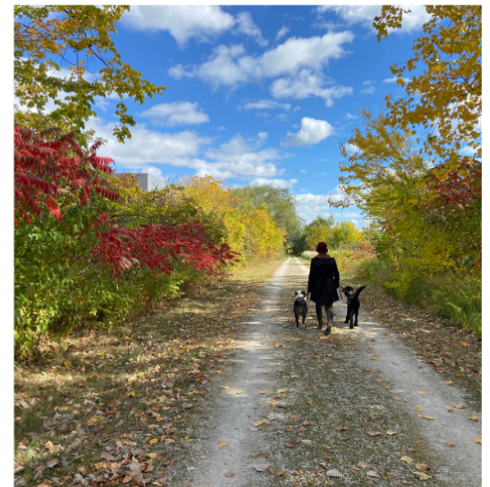
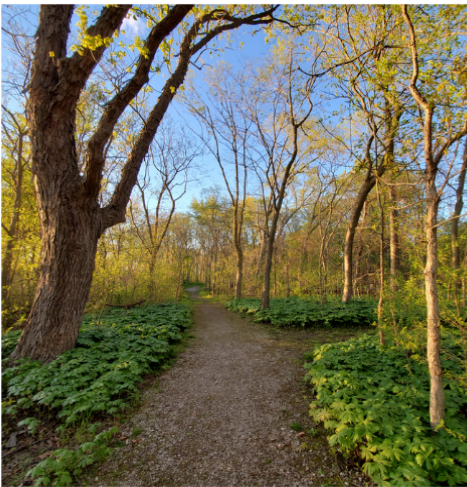
Approved By:



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:

- Draft Conservation Area Strategy



Essex Region Conservation Authority

DRAFT Conservation Area Strategy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Definitions.....	4
1.0 Purpose and Regulatory Framework.....	5
1.1 Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services.....	5
1.2 Land Acknowledgement	6
1.3 Origins of the Essex Region Conservation Authority.....	6
1.3 Strategic Direction.....	8
1.4 Conservation Areas Objectives per Legislative Requirements.....	8
2.0 Primary Objectives for Conservation Authority Lands (O.Reg. 686/21, 10.(1)1).....	9
2.1 Protect and Conserve.....	9
2.2 Connect	10
3.0 Land Acquisition & Disposition (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)1)	10
4.0 Programs & Services, Sources of Financing (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)2).....	14
4.1 Mandatory Programs and Services.....	14
4.1.1 Conservation Land Management Plans.....	15
4.1.2 Implementaton of Conservation Lands Management.....	18
4.1.3 Conservation Lands Restoration Activities	21
4.1.4 Conservation Lands Infrastructure Maintenance	24
4.2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services.....	24
4.2.1 Land Securement and Acquisition.....	25
4.2.2 Regional Biological Services.....	25
4.2.3 Holiday Beach Operations and Activities.....	25
4.2.4 John R. Park Homestead.....	26
5.0 Augmentation and Integration of Natural Heritage (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)3).....	26
5.1 Augmentation of Natural Heritage.....	26
5.2 Integration with other Publicly Accessible Lands	28
5.2.1 County Wide Active Transportation System.....	28
5.2.2 Stone Road Alvar Conservation Area	28
5.2.3. Point Pelee Peninsula	28
6.0 Land Use Categories (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)4)	29
6.1 Classifying Conservation Areas.....	29

6.1.1 Management Areas 31

6.1.2 Conservation Areas – Passive Recreation 31

6.1.3 Conservation Areas – Active Recreation..... 31

6.2 Site-Specific Zoning..... 32

6.2.1 Ecological Protection Zone..... 32

6.2.2 Natural Heritage Zone 32

6.2.3 Access Zone 33

6.2.4 Development Zone..... 33

6.2.5 Cultural Heritage Zone..... 33

7.0 Review Process (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1) 5)..... 33

7.1 Public Consultation 33

7.2 Periodic Review 34

References..... 34

Definitions

In this strategy,

"Direct support or supervision" means, a situation in which a staff person employed by ERCA, or by another person or body, is present on site at all times, overseeing activities as they occur and providing direction, feedback and/or assistance. In some instances direct support or supervision is required for health and safety reasons.

"Habitat" means, any area on which any species of animal, plant or other organism depends, directly or indirectly, to carry on its life processes, including life processes such as reproduction, rearing, hibernation, migration or feeding, and includes places that are used by members of the species as dens, nests, hibernacula or other residences.

"Natural heritage" means, features and areas, including wetlands, forests, valleylands, wildlife habitat and other natural features and ecological functions in an area, as well as all the different plants and animals that use those areas. Natural heritage features provide many benefits, including habitat for plants and animals, erosion control, flood control, clean air, and clean water, and are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area.

"Natural heritage system" means, a connected system made up of natural heritage features and areas which are linked by natural corridors and which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. These systems can include natural heritage features and areas, lands that have been restored or have the potential to be restored to a natural state, areas that support hydrologic functions, and working landscapes that enable ecological functions to continue.

Conservation Area Strategy (2024-2029)

1.0 Purpose and Regulatory Framework

The Conservation Area Strategy identifies broad objectives for the Essex Region Conservation Authority's (ERCA) Conservation Areas and related programs and services. The strategy was undertaken by the ERCA to meet requirements as outlined in the [Conservation Authorities Act, R. S. O. 1990, c. C.27](#) (CA Act) and [O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services](#) (Regulation) and is intended to provide guidance for the management and operation of the ERCA's conservation areas.

Section 21.1 of the CA Act sets out Mandatory Programs and Services that all conservation authorities must deliver within their watershed. Section 21.1.1 of the CA Act details Municipal Programs and Services that conservation authorities are permitted to provide under agreement to their municipal partners while Section 21.1.2 provides direction related to Other Programs and Services conservation authorities may deliver. O.Reg. 686/21, specifically, subsection 9(1), paragraph 1 outlines that all conservation authorities must complete a Conservation Area Strategy. The main requirements of a Conservation Area Strategy per Section 10 of the Regulation are outlined below.

1.1 Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services

As outlined in the regulation, the objectives for the Conservation Area Strategy are outlined in Section 10. (1) of the Regulation as follows:

10. (1) A Conservation Area strategy referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection 9 (1) shall include the following components:

- 1. Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands.*
- 2. Identification of the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and controlled by the authority, including the sources of financing for these programs and services.*
- 3. Where the authority considers it advisable to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, an assessment of how the lands owned and controlled by the authority may,
 - i. augment any natural heritage located within the authority's area of jurisdiction, and*
 - ii. integrate with other provincially or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within the authority's area of jurisdiction.**
- 4. The establishment of land use categories for the purpose of classifying lands in the land inventory described in section 11 based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel.*

5. *A process for the periodic review and updating of the conservation area strategy by the authority, including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process.*

1.2 Land Acknowledgement

The Essex Region Conservation Authority acknowledges that the conservation lands it owns and manages are the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, the Odawa and the Potawatomi Peoples.

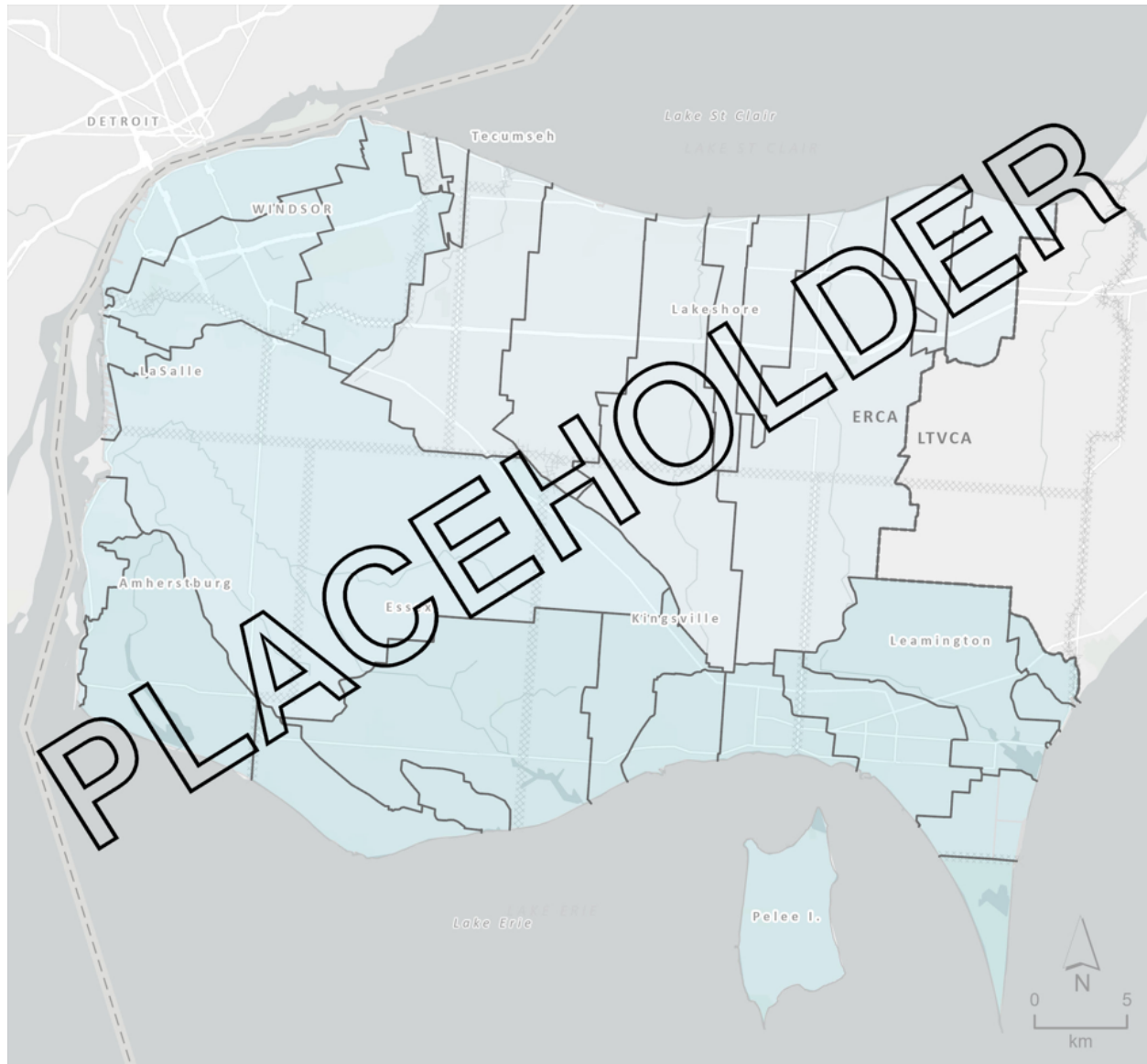
We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional first Nations, and all of the Original People of Turtle Island who have been living on and stewarding the land since time immemorial. These conservation areas are covered by Treaty 2 and Treaty 35.

1.3 Origins of the Essex Region Conservation Authority

On July 18th, 1973, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) was founded as the 36th Conservation Authority in Ontario. Jurisdiction ranges from where the west boundary of the Thames River watershed meets the shores of Lake St. Clair to the east boundary of the Muddy Creek watershed where it meets the shore of Lake Erie and with all coastal floodplains on Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie included, and all islands within the participating municipalities. The extent of jurisdiction extends into Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie for 5 kilometers, and with respect to the Detroit River, with similar extents up to the International Boundary between Canada and the United States.

Over the past five decades, significant strides have been made in improving the sustainability of the Windsor-Essex-Pelee Island region. Over 7 million trees have been planted and thousands of acres of natural habitat have been restored, increasing regional natural coverage from 3% to over 8.5%. ERCA established 18 publicly accessible Conservation Areas and developed more than 80 kilometres of Greenway Trail system with an additional 17 km of trail systems within various conservation areas, and 47 km of rail corridor yet to be developed for public use. ERCA led the regional charge to protect drinking water at its source, and to have the Detroit River designated as a Canadian Heritage River; the only river in North America with both Canadian and American Heritage River designations.

(Insert map of the main watersheds in the Windsor-Essex Region)



ERCA Watersheds



Source: C:\Users\ldou\Essex Region Conservation Authority\GIS - Documents\Projects\Departments\Conservation Areas\Conservation Area Strategy\Support\map 1.2 - Jurisdiction\Map 2.1 - CA Jurisdiction.aprx
TD 2024-09-05

1.3 Strategic Direction

ERCA's [Strategic Plan "Sustaining the Place for Life" \(2016-2025\)](#) outlines the vision, mission commitment and corporate values as well as the strategic priorities. In light of legislative changes, this plan will be undergoing review and updates to ensure that ERCA is in compliance with legislative requirements.

ERCA's Vision: The Essex Region is a sustainable, resilient and vibrant place with healthy and thriving watersheds, Great Lakes and a green culture.

ERCA's Mission: Improving our environment to enrich our lives.

ERCA's current Strategic Plan provides for 4 main strategic directions:

- **Connect** - Connect people to our landscapes, natural areas, trails, waterfronts and our Great Lakes. Connect and expand natural areas through acquisition, management, land use planning and habitat restoration.
- **Engage** - Engage our community to increase awareness about the critical importance of a healthy and sustainable community through outreach and education.
- **Collaborate** - To work collaboratively to strengthen and facilitate partnerships with all levels of government, our municipal partners, stakeholders and the public to create a future of sustainability through innovative land use planning and watershed management services.
- **Discover** - To develop greater scientific knowledge to proactively address and respond to environmental challenges such as climate change, water quality and other threats to our sustainability.

The Strategic Plan outlines 5 key statements that provide the basis for decision making and priority setting for the Authority. They are as follows:

- 1) The climate will continue to change.
- 2) The Great Lakes are our most significant natural resource.
- 3) Our landscapes and habitats are among the most significant in Canada.
- 4) Our urban areas will continue to grow and expand.
- 5) ERCA is a sustainable, resilient and valued agency.

1.4 Conservation Areas Objectives per Legislative Requirements.

Section 10(1) of Ontario Regulation 686/21 notes that a Conservation Area Strategy shall include "Objectives established by the authority that will inform the authority's decision making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands". For reference, Section 21.1 of the CA Act states the following:

An authority shall provide the following programs or services within its area of jurisdiction:

1. *Programs or services that meet any of the following descriptions and that have been prescribed by the regulations:*
 - i. *Programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards.*
 - ii. *Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title.*
 - iii. *Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006.*
 - iv. *Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under an Act prescribed by the regulations.*

2.0 Primary Objectives for Conservation Authority Lands (O.Reg. 686/21, 10.(1)1)

The following section describes the objectives that inform ERCA's decision-making related to the lands it owns and controls, including decisions related to policies governing the acquisition and disposition of such lands, in order to meet the needs of section 10.(1)1. of the Conservation Authorities Act.

2.1 Protect and Conserve

Goal 1: Protect and Conserve - Protect and enhance the natural areas in the Essex region.

Objective 1: Maintain and improve hydrological functions (e.g. water retention and erosion control) within Conservation Areas to assist in protecting people and properties from flooding.

Objective 2: Protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecosystem resilience of the Essex Region.

Objective 3: Ensure conservation lands contribute to the optimization of watershed ecosystem services.

Objective 4: To undertake research, monitoring and evaluation of the natural heritage system, and organize current information to identify information gaps and strengthen knowledge of the ERCA's watershed natural heritage system.

Objective 5: To maintain, enhance and build new partnerships to enhance connectivity of natural heritage lands and trail networks where possible.

To achieve the 'Protect and Conserve' goal and objectives, ERCA aims to increase the acquisition of wetlands and flood-prone areas and seek opportunities to improve and restore hydrological functions, such as water retention, within conservation areas. Land Management plans will continue to be developed and implemented in each conservation area and will be updated every 5-10 years for high-use and low-use areas, respectively. These Management Plans include site-specific practices to maintain habitat quality, increase biodiversity, and improve habitats for species at risk including invasive species management, wetland management, and ecosystem management. Increasing land acquisition and protecting, enhancing, and/or restoring lands will help with the large-scale goal of improving habitat connectivity and mitigating the impacts of habitat fragmentation across the Essex region.

2.2 Connect

Goal 2: Connect - Connect people to the natural environment through conservation areas and trails.

Objective 1: Safely maintain conservation areas and trails for public access.

Objective 2: Ensure that, wherever possible, conservation areas are accessible and inclusive to all members of the community.

Objective 3: Ensure that the public has access to quality and sustainable outdoor recreation and education programming in nature.

Objective 4: To determine the current public uses occurring on conservation lands, identify user groups and principal uses, and identify actions to meet future needs for these lands.

To achieve the 'Connect' goal and objectives, ERCA will continue to evaluate opportunities to develop and encourage the opportunity for public access to natural areas, where appropriate, and implement conservation education programs and community engagement initiatives with a commitment to ensuring that all programs, facilities, and Conservation Areas comply with accessibility standards, such as those set out by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). This includes installation, as-needed upgrades, and regular maintenance of facilities, parking lots, benches, trails, and restrooms to meet or exceed AODA standards. Additionally, ERCA will continue to pursue opportunities with Indigenous communities pursuant to all things related to cultural heritage.

3.0 Land Acquisition & Disposition (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)1)

Governments at various levels have recognized the importance of protecting natural heritage systems and the vital role they play within sustainable ecosystems and for the quality of life of ratepayers within the ERCA watershed. Many of these senior provincial and federal agencies have adopted policies that identify and protect the watershed's natural heritage/open space system; however, planning policy is an insufficient long-term conservation tool in that policies are constantly subject to amendments and appeals. The most risk-adverse way to protect important natural areas is through land securement.

To address one of ERCA's key Strategic Plan priorities, ERCA has been actively acquiring properties since its formation in 1973 on a property-by-property basis, including several acquisitions through the Clean Water~Green Spaces program (established in 2003).

2011 Land Securement Strategy

In 2011, ERCA retained the services of Orland Conservation to produce a Land Securement Strategy (LSS). The LSS is a land acquisition guidance document with a purpose to provide a strategic foundation for ERCA's land securement efforts and guide the permanent protection of the region's most biologically significant natural heritage features. The LSS provides objective justification and prioritization of land securement opportunities to ERCA's Board of Directors and staff. Lands identified for securement within the LSS may already have existing natural

heritage features and/or strategic restoration opportunities as identified by ERCA through the Essex Region Natural Heritage System Strategy (ERNHSS).

The land securement program outlined in the LSS, 2011 has been designed specifically for the ERCA watersheds, and includes:

- Criteria for selecting and prioritizing Land Securement Priority Areas (LSPA);
- A landowner contact program to engage landowners in a securement discussion;
- Securement options and tools available for landowners; and
- Recommendations on working with individual landowners who are interested in pursuing a land securement project.

This document is not available to the public. The 2011 Land Securement Strategy requires further review and update in response to planning changes and development trends.

Current Land Securement & Disposition Strategy

Each year ERCA works towards the strategic acquisition of lands that have the most significant impact on improving the sustainability of the region and the overall health of the watershed. Specifics of new land acquisitions are managed in a confidential/closed meeting of the Committee of the Whole and once acquired, restoration and management of these lands would be considered as a mandatory program.

The goal of the Land Securement Strategy is to focus on natural areas, linkages, infilling and creating larger core area conservation areas, as natural heritage features have the ability to mitigate the potential impacts of hazards on the watershed.

It is inconceivable that all properties holding impactful features could be secured by public agencies or land trusts. With existing funding levels and the ability to locate willing parties, ERCA will approach land acquisition based on a willing buyer-willing seller philosophy. Acquisition will be completed based on available opportunities to acquire targeted properties and will be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to funding.

Land disposition is not envisioned by ERCA. In the unlikely event that a property does not have existing or potential ecological significance, does not meet the noted securement criteria as detailed in the LSS, and has no pre-existing agreement to honour regarding disposal, the parcel may be considered for disposition from which proceeds would be directed towards the ERCA's land acquisition account to be used to secure additional lands.

In addition to the above, periodically ERCA receives donations of land for which charitable receipts are issued. Dependant on conditions of sale, as well as location and natural heritage significance, these properties are either retained as part of ERCA's land holdings, and/or sold with the proceeds added to a land acquisition reserve fund for future purchase of properties aligning with overall conservation goals of the Authority

A Timeline of Growth

ERCA Lands Acquisition



Over the past 50 years of managing our region's watersheds, countless actions have been taken to protect and restore the local environment. Significant environmental areas have been acquired to ensure their protection in perpetuity and create a sustainable, resilient and vibrant place that aligns with our mission and vision for the Windsor-Essex-Peel Island community.

All elements of a place are interconnected - our community, its environmental health, healthy lifestyles for our citizens and our economy. These natural spaces, which have been protected over the past five decades, improve habitat and water quality, provide for flood attenuation, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and support physical and mental health.

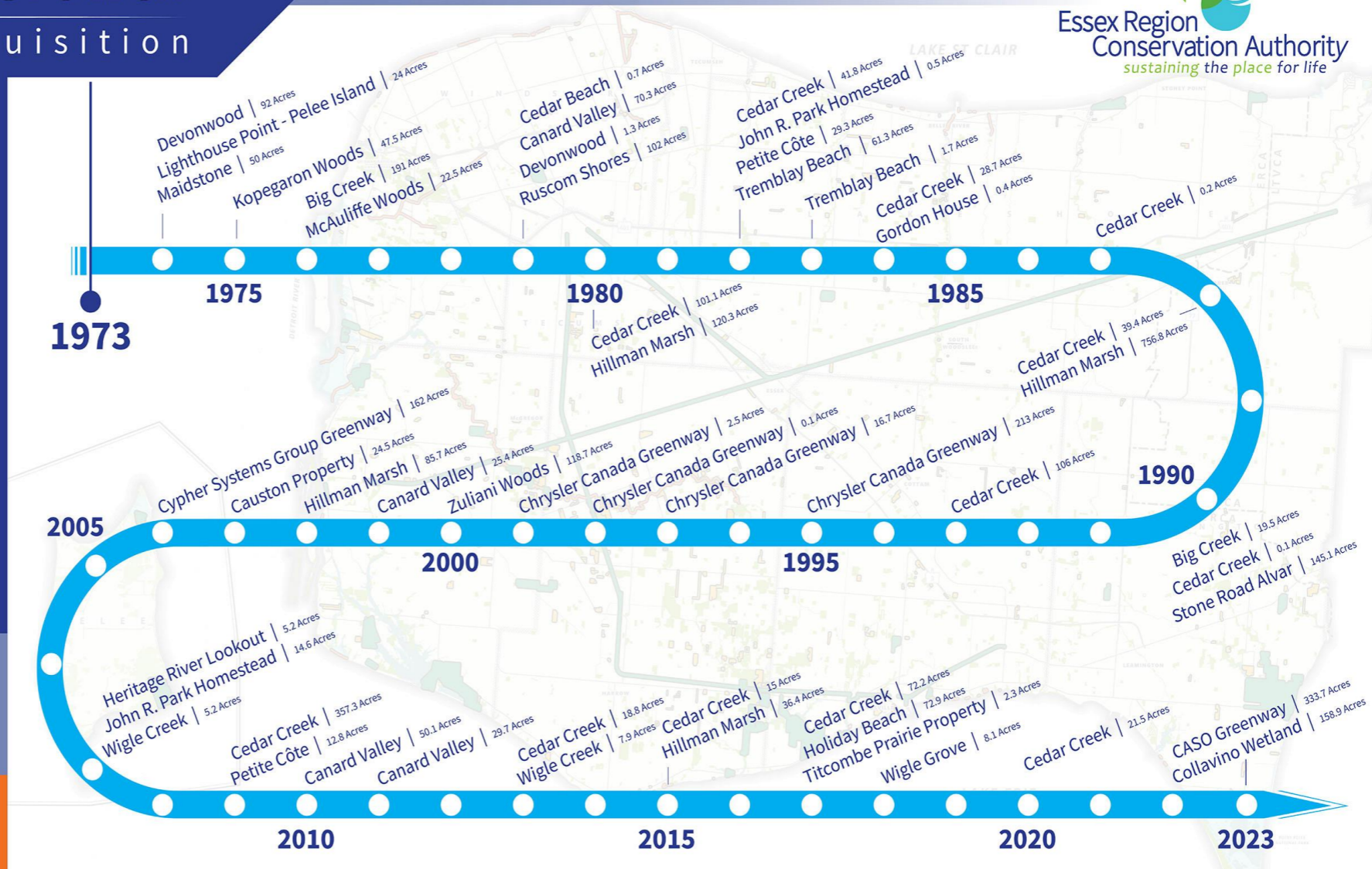
We embrace this place, and make it our home, for life.

Our Mission

The Essex Region is a sustainable, resilient and vibrant place with healthy and thriving watersheds, Great Lakes and a green culture.

Our Vision

Improving our environment to enrich our lives.



This page has been left as a placeholder:

- 1) Map of ERCA Public Conservation Areas and Greenway Trails

4.0 Programs & Services, Sources of Financing (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)2)

The following section identifies and describes the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services that are provided on land owned and managed by ERCA, including the sources of financing for these programs, in order to meet the needs of 10.(1) 2 of the regulation.

4.1 Mandatory Programs and Services

Mandatory programs and services (Table 1) include management, operation, and maintenance of ERCA owned/managed lands, including ecological monitoring and stewardship, land management planning, habitat and restoration activities, hazard tree abatement, and invasive species management. This also includes general operations and asset maintenance/management of any facilities, trails, and other amenities that support public access and passive recreational activities within specific Conservation Areas.

Currently, ERCA owns 16 publicly accessible Conservation Areas and 3 trail systems and, in total manages more than 1,800 hectares (~4,448 acres) of conservation lands. These properties provide habitat for over 150 provincially rare species, of which 50 are listed as species at risk (25 endangered, 15 threatened, and 10 species of special concern), and includes over 75 km of Greenways with 12 Community Greenway Entrances. All ERCA Greenways (including the newly acquired CASO property) make up 303.0 hectares (~749 acres) of naturalized habitat.

The Conservation Services department actively implements habitat protection and management programs within Conservation Areas to prevent anthropogenic (human caused) disturbance and unauthorized use. This includes forest inventories, invasive species management, wetland protection, and the restoration of ERCA owned properties. This also ensures that optimal biodiversity and ecological function of the natural heritage features within ERCA properties are maintained, enhanced, or restored.

Table 1: ERCA's Mandatory Programs and Services along with source of funding.

Mandatory Program/Service	Source of Funding
<p>Management, operation and maintenance of ERCA owned lands.</p> <p>Includes: restoration activities, management plans, hazard tree and invasive species management and ecological monitoring.</p> <p>Programs and services to maintain any facilities, trails or other amenities that support public access and passive recreational activities in conservation areas</p>	<p>Mandatory Category 1 Municipal Cost Apportionment and Self-Generated</p>
<p>Conservation Land Management Plans</p>	<p>Mandatory Category 1 Municipal Cost Apportionment</p>

Section 29 Minister’s regulation Rules for Conduct in Conservation Areas (O. Reg. 688/21)	Mandatory Category 1 Municipal Cost Apportionment and Self-Generated
---	--

4.1.1 Conservation Land Management Plans

Management plans are created by ERCA staff to provide details on appropriate land use(s), and assure that development or use of a site, and its required infrastructure, occur in a manner that is sustainable and compatible with the long-term watershed needs (hazard and heritage considerations). These plans prescribe specific habitat management programs and techniques to maintain habitat quality, including invasive species management, forest management, wetland management through water level manipulations (e.g., flooding and drawdowns), and ecosystem management through prescribed burns for tallgrass prairie/alvar.

The process of preparing a management plan involves analysis of the overall goals and objectives for the site, the site’s features and landscapes, threats and possible conflicts between uses, and solutions that can be implemented over time. The development of a plan becomes increasingly complex with the number of issues, stakeholders, and considerations. The following proposed 8-Step process is typically utilized for creating Conservation Area Management Plans for each site (see Figure. 4).

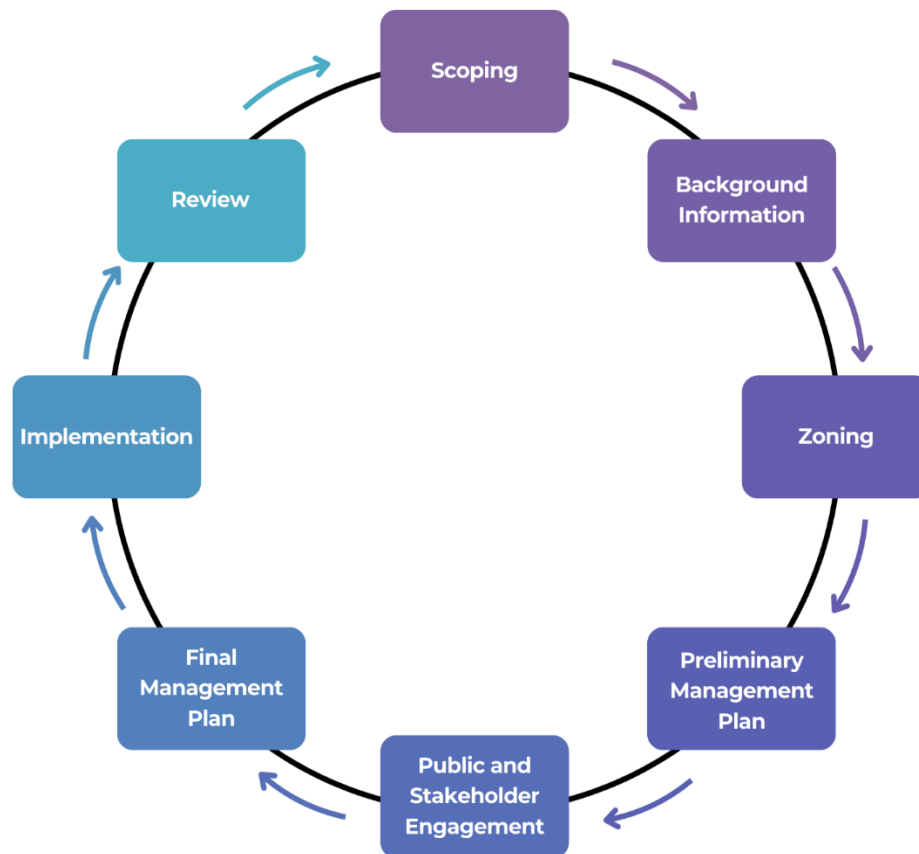


Figure 4: 8-step process for the development of a Conservation Area Management Plan.

Scoping

The first step in management planning is understanding a scope of the initiative, which involves assigning a project manager and identifying a team, securing a budget, assigning responsibilities, developing a high-level workplan with milestones and timelines, defining the scope of the plan (goals, objectives, deliverables, etc.), and confirming the level of public engagement.

Background Information

Once the scope of the project is known, the project team will initiate a background information and literature review to establish a baseline understanding and identify any data gaps.

Background information includes:

- Site history (previous land uses, land ownership, and environmental changes and challenges);
- Natural heritage features and processes (Ecological Land Classification and biological surveys that identify sensitive habitats and species at risk);
- Review of previous management plans (identifying successes and lessons learned);
- Social, cultural, indigenous and economic significance, concerns, and/or threats;
- Environmental/ecological significance, concerns, and/or threats;
- Recreation and/or potential land uses; and
- Current management programs.

Zoning

There are three defined classifications that are assigned to Conservation Areas, based on their primary purposes, overall character, and extent of visitor use and development. These include:

- Management Areas (public accessibility varies);
- Conservation Areas - Passive Recreation (accessible to the public); and
- Conservation Areas - Active Recreation (accessible to the public).

Most Conservation Areas include a variety of natural and cultural features; site-specific zoning defines these different areas. There are five classified zones that can be applied further within a site, including:

- Ecological Protection Zone;
- Natural Heritage Zone;
- Access Zone;
- Development Zone; and
- Cultural Heritage Zone.

These classes and zones are described further in Section 5.0.

The Ecological Land Classification System (ELC) is a provincially recognized and accepted method of typifying, characterizing, and describing vegetation communities within a property. It helps to determine the character and relative biological importance of an area and assists in determining what is required to maintain or improve the site's natural heritage features and functions. Additional biological surveys and documenting the flora and fauna will assist in prescribing management actions designed to benefit specific populations, such as Species at Risk. These assessments will also provide the baseline biological information required to assess the relative sensitivity of particular habitats and areas within a Conservation Area and therefore inform the decision-making process with respect to appropriate public uses.

Preliminary Management Plan

A preliminary plan provides the background information needed to make science-based management recommendations and to provide the public with enough detail to understand the preferred management direction. The general outline of a preliminary management plan is as follows:

- Introduction: including information on the Conservation Area's regional context, property history, classification, plan purpose, and goals and objectives;
- State of the Conservation Area: including information on abiotic conditions (climate, geology, soils, topography, hydrology), biophysical resources (flora and fauna), and cultural resources;
- Existing Uses: including public use, market analysis, and ERCA use;
- Zoning: based on identified zones as described above;
- Recommendations: identification of operational, natural heritage, cultural heritage, and development recommendations;
- Implementation: description of priorities and phasing; and
- Consultations: summary of public consultations.

In some instances, a management plan could have a greater emphasis on economic factors, development, and revenue. Modifications could be made to include more detailed business planning topics, such as a review of major tourism/economic development influences, trends and opportunities, customer surveys and analysis, operational analysis (based on infrastructure and capital plan reports), financial/investment opportunities and risks, and community benefits.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

Public consultation allows for a better understanding and appreciation of the dynamic social needs of the local community. Management plans require periodic modifications or updates to ensure that watershed health and input from ratepayers are properly considered.

When a management plan does not provide for public facilities but instead is focused on natural heritage features, the extent of public consultation is limited to stakeholders and neighbouring

landowners. However, if the plan will serve the needs of the watershed, then greater effort is required to communicate the preliminary management direction and provide opportunities for feedback. During the initial scoping of the plan, the level of public engagement will be determined as it has impacts on staff allocations and budgets.

Forms of public and/or stakeholder engagement may include:

- Visitor surveys;
- Mailed surveys;
- Public meetings;
- Providing copies of the preliminary management plan to stakeholders and inviting comments; and
- Feedback and comment forms, both written and online.

Final Management Plan

When public and stakeholder comments have been received and evaluated, consideration of changes to the plan will be made. Once the draft final management plan has been approved by the Director of Conservation Services and the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, it is reviewed by the Conservation Services Advisory Board with a recommendation to ERCA's Board of Directors for approval.

Implementation and Review

Once approved, ERCA Administration is responsible for the implementation of the management plan and will assign tasks and keep track of budgeting. Budgetary constraints, changing priorities, and our dynamic ecosystem may lead to changes to the original management objectives or recommendations. In these instances, an adaptive management methodology will be applied, which involves continuous monitoring of both the plan and the outcome of activities. The review of existing management plans and the timing associated with this review will be assessed and detailed within the site-specific management plans.

It is important to note that these management plans are dynamic and deal with life science issues that evolve and change therefore requiring these documents to be referenced as living documents.

4.1.2 Implementaton of Conservation Lands Management

This section outlines some of the activities that ERCA would undertake to actively manage conservation lands. This list is not exhaustive but only intended to illustrate some of the more complex undertakings of conservation lands management.

Low Complexity Prescribed Burns

Low Complexity Prescribed Burns (LCPB) are limited intensity, low risk burns that are intentionally set to achieve specific land management objectives (Fig. 3). LCPBs can help achieve a range of objectives including:

- Restoring and maintaining the health, integrity, and sustainability of ecosystems (e.g. releasing and recycling nutrients into the soil by turning woody debris and organic matter into mineral-rich ash, opening a tree canopy and allowing for sunlight to reach the forest floor);
- Controlling outbreaks of insects and disease (e.g. invasive species management);
- Reducing wildfire hazards;
- Silviculture site preparation and technique testing; and Research (MNRF, 2017).

The main objective of prescribed burns in ERCA's Conservation Areas is to improve ecosystem health and promote the growth of tall grass prairie species, reduce the extent of woody succession by young Dogwood shrub species, and manage the spread of invasive species.



Figure 5: A Low Complexity Prescribed Burn (LCPB) at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area on March 21, 2023.

Forest Management

Forest management efforts prevent the forests of the Essex Region from following a trajectory that leads to decline, a lack of regeneration, and vulnerability to disease and pests. Forest cover in the Essex region is low, and typically disparate. The goal of ERCA's Forestry Program is to plant site-appropriate native tree species and in the most ecological and environmentally practical locations, taking the greatest care to ensure survival by preparing the planting site and monitoring growth until the trees reach a sustainable maturity.

Forest management efforts involve gathering background information, developing management objectives (managing for health, wildlife, and diversity), conducting a forest inventory (species present, stocking levels, ELC plots), developing and evaluating management options, and

developing and implementing a management plan. ERCA's vision for forest management includes:

- Managing biodiversity (variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur);
- Health and sustainability (diversity of age classes, removing dead/diseased trees);
- Protection of Species at Risk (species like Butternut and Kentucky Coffeetree are intolerant to shade; opening the canopy will help them thrive);
- Environmental benefits (carbon sequestration, pollutant sinks);
- Recreation (walking trails);
- Participation in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MNRF program where managed forest area is taxed at 25% of the municipal); and
- Mitigating climate change (increased carbon storage; ERCA, 2009).
- Hazard Tree management as a risk management activity for public safety.

Invasive Species Management

Invasive species are non-native species that cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health. Invasive species have higher tolerance to external factors such as temperature, humidity, and soil moisture, making them more successful in crowding out and killing native species. These species outcompete native species for resources, alter habitat structure and function, disrupt ecological processes, and lead to the decline or extinction of native species. Their spread can cause damage to industries that rely on those environments, create increased management and control costs, and have negative impacts on tourism.

It is crucial to prevent the spread of invasive species through early detection and rapid response, but once established, there are five principal control methods (Manning and Miller, 2011; CWS, 1995):

- Biological control (introducing living organisms into populations of an invasive species to reduce the reproductivity capacity and density);
- Chemical control (the use of herbicides and pesticides);
- Cultural control (preventative methods; planting pest-resistant crops, soil solarization);
- Mechanical control (using machines to remove invasive species; mowing, tilling, constructing barriers); and
- Physical control (physical removal of invasive species; hand-pulling plants, trapping animals, flooding/drawdowns);

Common invasive species that are actively controlled in ERCA's Conservation Areas include Common Reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *Australis*; Fig. 4), Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*; prominent at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area), and Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). Autumn

Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) is often controlled by ERCA via a 5-year partnership with the City of Windsor at the Spring Garden Natural Area. This fast-spreading species not only spreads above-ground by seed but also below-ground by root, making it difficult to control and easily preventing native species from thriving.



Figure 6: Invasive Phragmites at the Hillman Marsh Conservation Area during a pilot project to test methods of control (2016).

4.1.3 Conservation Lands Restoration Activities

When opportunities exist, the Conservation Authority will undertake appropriate restoration of lands. Typically, this includes restoration of natural heritage features and ecological functions on disturbed or marginal agricultural lands. This restoration may include afforestation (i.e., tree planting in order to create a woodland/forest), wetland creation, or the planting of tallgrass prairie grasslands/meadows. Restoration plans are created taking into consideration the landscape context of the property being restored, as well as the local site conditions such as soil texture, moisture, and slope.

Due to the low percentage of natural cover within the Essex region, it is essential that ERCA implement habitat restoration wherever possible to work towards completing the regional natural heritage system, in accordance with the Essex Region Natural Heritage System Strategy (ERNHSS).

The following are recent examples of some of the restoration activities ERCA has undertaken.

Collavino Conservation Area

In October 2022, 60.7 hectares of ecologically sensitive wetland habitat was donated for protection to ERCA. The property is a mix of wetland and floodplain near the mouth of the Canard River in Amherstburg. A restoration plan has been successfully implemented by ERCA to

restore the health and function of this wetland. This plan included dyke repairs, constructing infrastructure to manage water levels, and a multi-year *Phragmites* management strategy.



Figure 7: Biological control to tackle invasive phragmites, stems have been injected with the larvae of two moth species.

Hillman Marsh Restoration Plan

The Hillman Marsh Conservation Area, located in Leamington, Ontario, is a barrier-protected coastal wetland and is classified as an Environmentally Significant Area, Provincially Significant Wetland, and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. As a part of Carolinian Canada, Hillman Marsh helps to preserve hundreds of rare and endangered species that are seldom seen in Ontario. In 2019, as a result of high-water levels, low ice cover, and limited sediment supply, the barrier beach breached (Fig. 6), and the open marsh is no longer protected from Lake Erie, resulting in impaired water quality, and a loss of most submerged aquatic vegetation, tree cover, and woody vegetation.

In 2022, the Hillman Marsh Restoration Plan was initiated to restore the barrier beach and wetland plant community. Restoration work is currently underway to update the headland at the end of East Beach Road and construct a pilot section of an artificial barrier beach. Future construction efforts will include the full artificial barrier beach comprising of a rock core topped with sand and vegetation, equipped to withstand climate change extremes, protect the wetland ecosystem, and safeguard homes and businesses. Following the construction of the barrier beach, extensive revegetation efforts will take place to enhance wetland structure, function, diversity, and resilience to climate change impacts.



Figure 8: Breached barrier beach at Hillman Marsh Conservation Area (June, 2023; photo courtesy of Wayne King).

Cedar Creek Conservation Area

Cedar Creek Conservation Area contains one of the few remaining riverine wetlands in Essex County, representing a total of 153 hectares (~378 acres) of Provincially Significant Wetland, and 1% of all remaining wetlands in the Essex Region. ERCA recently acquired the Armstrong Property, comprised of 14.8 hectares (~37 acres) of the Cedar Creek Wetland and 128.6 (~318 acres) hectares of surrounding upland (Fig. 7). ERCA has begun to implement plans to undertake forest stewardship practices, including reforestation on the higher elevations of the property to augment the Carolinian forest component of the property, and create forest linkage between the Armstrong Property and previously owned Cugat Property.

The proposed restoration project is ongoing and aims to:

- Restore a diverse, native, Carolinian habitat mosaic (including swamp forest, wetland, riparian and upland meadow habitats);
- Connect and expand upon existing habitat areas in the Cedar Creek watershed, while promoting the recovery of local species at risk; and
- Restore the natural drainage to the existing agricultural fields, while isolating the upstream drainage pattern from lake water.



Figure 9: Aerial imagery of the newly acquired Armstrong Property at Cedar Creek Conservation Area (2023).

4.1.4 Conservation Lands Infrastructure Maintenance

Infrastructure on conservation lands includes boardwalks, towers, trails, etc. that support passive recreation on conservation lands. These items are captured in a separate Asset Management Plan.

4.2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services

Non-mandatory programs and services (Table 3) include land securement/acquisition as well as the operation of ERCA owned or managed facilities at Conservation Areas which support active recreation and education programming.

Table 2: ERCA's non-mandatory programs and services, along with their sources of funding.

Category 3 Non-Mandatory Program/Service	Source of Funding
Land Securement and Acquisition	Category 3 Non-Mandatory Municipal Cost Apportioning Agreement; Donations; Government, NGO/ERCF Grants
Regional Biological Services	Fee for Service; Government, NGO/ERCF Grants
Holiday Beach Operations	Self-Generated Revenue

<p>John R. Park Homestead (Museum Operations)</p>	<p>Category 3 Non-Mandatory Municipal Cost Apportioning Agreement; Self-Generated Revenue; Donations; Government, NGO/ERCF Grants</p>
---	---

4.2.1 Land Securement and Acquisition

Land acquisition is considered a non-mandatory program and service of the Authority. These activities are funded through support from Municipal Cost Apportionment agreements, donations and external grants. ERCA’s Land Securement Strategy is outlined in section 3.0 above.

4.2.2 Regional Biological Services

Biological services are undertaken on a fee-for-service basis combined with various provincial and federal grants partially supported by non-mandatory municipal funding. Activities include natural heritage technical advice, restoration, and invasive species management on non-ERCA owned properties. To achieve a sustainable future, mitigate climate impacts, expand tree canopy cover, improve water quality, and keep endangered species from extinction in Canada, partnerships must continue with private landowners and local municipalities to restore natural habitats in the region.

ERCA has restored over 163 hectares (~430 acres) of land on public and private property since 2017. These privately owned restoration sites are an invaluable contribution from the community as they further the rehabilitation of the Windsor-Essex-Pelee region. Some examples of these biological services projects include:

- Spring Garden Natural Area Restoration, City of Windsor (2016-present)
- Point Pelee Ecological Connectivity/Restoration Project (2021-present)
 - Sturgeon, Lebo, and Hillman Creeks (Leamington)
 - Sweetfern Woods (Pelee Island)
 - Hillman Marsh (Leamington).

4.2.3 Holiday Beach Operations and Activities

The Province of Ontario, with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) as its representative, is the legal owner of Holiday Beach Conservation Area, however the site is operated by ERCA via a thirty-year management agreement (2001-2031). The operational costs associated with this site are covered by user fees related to camping, hunting, and cottage rentals; however, revenue generation is not sufficient to fund future capital replacement and major renovation costs.

Although significant investments have been made at this Conservation Area over the past 10 years, utilizing the infrastructure reserve, this funding mechanism is no longer available as operations at this site are now fully non-mandatory. Administration is currently in discussions with MNRF regarding this property and the management agreement.

4.2.4 John R. Park Homestead

In 2008, ownership of the John R. Park Homestead (JRPH) Conservation Area was transferred from the Province of Ontario to ERCA. This transfer included a number of covenants and obligations regarding operations and preservation/maintenance of the assets at this site, including that:

- the site continues to operate as a Conservation Area and museum;
- the museum meets the Provincial Standards for Community Museums in Ontario; and,
- the site employs a full time Curator, to this purpose.

As a result of this encumbrance, ERCA is eligible to apply for the Community Museum Operating Grant from the provincial government. Regardless that maintenance activities of other conservation areas are subject to levy, ERCA has received confirmation from the Minister (MNRF) that the operation and maintenance of the JRPH museum and other heritage buildings, as well as the provision of education programs, are regarded as non-mandatory services.

5.0 Augmentation and Integration of Natural Heritage (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)3)

The following information assesses how the lands owned and controlled by ERCA may augment any natural heritage and integrate with other federal, provincial or municipally owned lands or other publicly accessible lands and trails within ERCA's area of jurisdiction, in order to meet the requirements of 10.(1)3 of the regulation.

5.1 Augmentation of Natural Heritage

Prior to European Settlement, the Essex region was dominated by lush natural areas including Carolinian woodlands, wetlands, and tallgrass prairies. Since the time of settlement in the 1830's, much of the original natural resources of the Essex region have either been removed from the landscape or had become extremely degraded as a direct or indirect result of clearing and drainage for timber, agriculture, and urban development. This resulted in a degraded ecosystem characterized by a lack of sustainable natural area cover, buffers, large core areas, linkages, and corridors. Our region's remaining natural heritage, consisting of small, isolated remnants of forest, wetland, prairie, savanna, alvar, and riparian habitat, and constitutes one of the lowest percentages of natural cover of any region in Ontario. It has long been realized that this cumulative loss and alteration of the region's natural heritage has had profound consequences on the region's sustainability and ecosystem health, necessitating the need to not only protect and significantly increase the extent of remaining natural habitats, but also enhance the quality of those habitats.

This page has been left as a placeholder:

- 1) ERNSS map of the natural heritage features in the Windsor-Essex Region
- 2) Map of ERCA properties with adjacent municipal/public parks, trails, etc.

The Essex region's natural area cover is approximately 8.5% of the total land area (~14,322 hectares). ERCA currently owns/manages approximately 1,800 hectares (~4,448 acres) of these natural heritage features, representing almost 12% of the total existing natural areas within the Essex region. The majority of ERCA's Greenway lands are in the process of regenerating naturally. The total corridor width required for trails is 10 metres, while the actual property width of ERCA's greenways range from 20-30 metres, leaving 10-20 metres of natural heritage linkage and restoration opportunities. The existing and proposed natural heritage corridors available on ERCA-owned trails may assist member municipality's needs to identify natural heritage linkages and corridors as referred to in the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS, 2024) and provides habitat for species at risk and other plants, birds, and wildlife species.

5.2 Integration with other Publicly Accessible Lands

To integrate with other publicly accessible lands, ERCA works closely with other organizations that share similar natural area management goals, such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Parks Canada, Parks Ontario, Ontario Nature, and the local municipalities. Recognizing that flora and fauna do not adhere to man-made boundaries, working with these organizations allows for the preservation of as much wetland and natural areas as possible, to create a network of connected, sustainable habitats.

5.2.1 County Wide Active Transportation System

In 2011, in partnership with all local municipalities, the County of Essex initiated a non-motorized active transportation study, which has led to the development of a trail system for both commuters and recreation enthusiasts, utilizing ERCA's Greenways as its backbone. This County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) links seven local municipalities with an active transportation network spanning 800 km. In time, CWATS will connect trails in Chatham-Kent to ERCA's Greenways, which also connects to the trail systems associated with the Laurier Parkway within the Town of LaSalle, and the Right Honourable Herb Gray Parkway in Windsor, LaSalle, and Tecumseh. MyCWATS has developed a series of interactive maps to document the trail system through the Windsor-Essex region which can be found here:

<https://www.countyofessex.ca/en/discover-the-county/cwats-maps.aspx>

5.2.2 Stone Road Alvar Conservation Area

The Essex Region Conservation Authority, along with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Nature have acquired and protected 244 hectares (~603 acres) of natural land on Pelee Island. This area includes the Stone Road Alvar Conservation Area, a unique and biologically diverse ecosystem. Management efforts include periodic prescribed burns to prevent the natural succession of shrubs from closing in on the savannah communities.

5.2.3. Point Pelee Peninsula

ERCA actively works with Point Pelee National Park (PPNP) to manage the surrounding three watersheds: Sturgeon, Lebo, and Hillman Creeks. Despite its small size, PPNP supports a high diversity of flora and fauna, including many species at risk (at least 64 federally listed under SARA). About 5 km north of PPNP, within these watersheds, is the Hillman Marsh Conservation Area, which supports over 100 species of marsh, shore, and field birds in its diverse habitats.

Working with PPNP ensures the conservation of these watersheds as a natural corridor between these two ecologically diverse locations.

In 2013, ERCA developed the Essex Region Natural Heritage System Strategy (ERNHSS) to map existing natural heritage features and to prioritize habitat restoration opportunities within the region. The ERNHSS applied a broad, landscape level natural heritage modeling exercise that utilized ERCA's Geographic Information System. In 2020, ERCA entered into an agreement with PPNP/Parks Canada to provide updates to this mapping as well as to typify the vegetation communities using the Southern Ontario ELC system. The results identified that only 10% of this area is covered by natural vegetation types, and that these areas are poorly connected.

In 2021, ERCA and PPNP collaborated on the Ecological Connectivity/Restoration Project in order to identify and prioritize areas for potential terrestrial and wetland restoration and conservation in the three watersheds.

ERCA and PPNP hold a strong partnership and have open communication to continue to restore local wetlands and natural areas, with a goal of creating a network of connected habitats.

6.0 Land Use Categories (O. Reg 686/21,10.(1)4)

This section details information relating to the establishment of land use categories for the land inventory described in section 6.0, based on the types of activities that are engaged in on each parcel of land or other matters of significance related to the parcel, in order to meet the needs of 10. (1) 4. of the regulation.

6.1 Classifying Conservation Areas

A Conservation Areas Classification System is a framework for identifying, planning, and managing different kinds of Conservation Areas for the long-term. This approach has the capacity to maintain ecological processes critical to conservation, ensure important lands are managed and protected for future generations, direct and guide management actions and restoration, and help decision-makers consider Conservation Area options in light of competing resources and visitor demands.

A Classification System assigns Conservation Areas to different, defined categories that reflect the emphasis or primary purpose of the Conservation Area, their roles, overall character, and the extent of visitor use and development permitted within them. There are three proposed classifications for Essex Region Conservation Areas:

- Management Areas (public accessibility varies and may be limited/prohibited);
- Conservation Areas - Passive Recreation (accessible to the public); and,
- Conservation Areas - Active Recreation (accessible to the public).

This page has been left as a placeholder:

- 1) Map displaying Land classification for ERCA's Conservation Areas, greenways, and other owned lands.

6.1.1 Management Areas

Management areas have high ecological significance, encompassing Environmentally Significant Areas, habitats for Species at Risk, and other critical natural regions. The primary purpose of these areas is the protection of natural habitats and their inhabitants and are to be maintained or improved as natural heritage features.

Due to their sensitive nature, these sites have restricted public use to prevent disturbances and maintain the ecological integrity of the site for future generations. Consequently, management areas do not support public infrastructure but are instead protected and managed for the maintenance of biodiversity, its contribution to broader landscape connectivity, as well as its intrinsic natural heritage value to society.

Typical activities within these sites include research, ecological restoration, invasive species management, forest management, and projects benefiting Species at Risk. Public use of the site is limited to research and other activities deemed appropriate through the completion of a management plan such as controlled hunting to manage overpopulation, and invasive species removal to protect native biodiversity.

6.1.2 Conservation Areas – Passive Recreation

Passive Recreation Conservation Areas form a large percentage of ERCA's Conservation Areas, playing a crucial role in both the protection of natural heritage features as well as the provision of low intensity, passive recreational and educational opportunities. Passive Recreation Conservation Areas are maintained but do not have onsite direct support or supervision of staff employed by ERCA or by another body.

These areas are designed to facilitate activities with low environmental impact, including hiking, birdwatching, picnicking, and occasionally swimming, providing that they do not interfere with plant and wildlife populations. These areas also may serve as living classrooms for environmental education, offering opportunities for self-guided learning, as well as formal education programs and field trips.

6.1.3 Conservation Areas – Active Recreation

Active Recreation Conservation Areas support a variety of outdoor recreational activities that accommodate large numbers of people. These areas are equipped with related infrastructure such as campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and heritage buildings, all provided with the direct support or supervision of staff employed by ERCA or by another body.

This classification also includes properties or buildings that have been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and possess significant local or provincial historical value. The primary activities at these historical sites are historical preservation, research, and education/interpretation. By maintaining these sites, ERCA not only preserves important cultural landmarks, but also educates the public about the relationship between past cultures and their dependency on natural resources.

Table 3 illustrates the priority levels for conservation and protection, visitor experience, and heritage appreciation and education across the different classifications. Regardless of the

varying intensity of use associated with the different site classifications, all activities within these areas must comply with Species at Risk legislation and natural/cultural heritage values. Public use is carefully managed through Management Planning and site-specific zoning.

Table 3: The three classifications of Conservation Areas, and how each purpose is prioritized (high, medium, or low priority).

Purpose	Classification		
	Management Areas	Conservation Areas - Passive Recreation	Conservation Areas - Active Recreation
Conservation and Protection	High	High	Medium
Visitor Experience	Low	Medium	High
Heritage Appreciation and Education	High	Medium	High

6.2 Site-Specific Zoning

Most of ERCA’s properties sites include a variety of natural and cultural features and landscapes that together, contribute to the goals of an individual conservation area and the Conservation Authority. Site-specific zoning defines these different areas and describes appropriate uses for them, allowing for the protection of natural values or the development of recreational activities. The occurrence of sensitive or rare habitats or species can dictate the application of very restrictive zoning in order to limit or exclude any type of activity that may impact those sensitive values. There are five zones for ERCA’s Conservation Areas: Ecological Protection, Natural Heritage, Access, Development, and Cultural Heritage.

6.2.1 Ecological Protection Zone

The purpose of an Ecological Protection Zone is to ensure the protection of species and their habitats, to continue their presence in the Essex region. For this reason, management of valued natural features is encouraged, invasive species elimination or control programs should be developed and implemented when feasible and practical, and non-disruptive research is permitted, when it contributes to the scientific knowledge of the site. To discourage public access and disturbance, there are typically no visitor facilities or structured visitor services, and activities such as canoeing, kayaking, controlled hunting, and nature appreciation are limited but permitted through the management plan, and no other activities are permitted.

6.2.2 Natural Heritage Zone

Natural Heritage Zones protect significant natural features that represent the various forms of flora and fauna found in the Essex region. To protect natural features, a management plan and invasive species elimination or control programs are encouraged. Non-disruptive research is permitted, when it contributes to the scientific knowledge of the site. Where appropriate, these sites are utilized for facilitating passive day-use activity that allows for nature appreciation and

enjoyment, such as hiking, photography, canoeing and picnicking. Controlled/regulated hunting is only permitted through a site-specific management plan.

6.2.3 Access Zone

Access Zones within both Passive and Active Recreation Conservation Areas usually include a public parking lot and signage. However, in Conservation Areas classified as Management Areas, an access point may not be signed or suitable for the general public. It could simply be a gravel path for staff access or access for the limited permitted uses allowed within Management Areas.

6.2.4 Development Zone

Within Active Recreation Conservation Areas, development zones are able to allow for access to natural settings for larger numbers of people. These sites include parking areas, campgrounds, trails, beaches, large picnic areas, buildings, and other structures that facilitate both day use and overnight activities. Infrastructure such as roads, buildings, water lines and waste disposal systems should be in place to accommodate use of these sites. Controlled hunting is only permitted through a site-specific management plan, educational programs are encouraged, and non-disruptive research is permitted as long as it contributes to the scientific knowledge of the site.

6.2.5 Cultural Heritage Zone

The Conservation Authority owns and manages two sites designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The primary purpose of these sites is to protect and preserve the significant historical features and to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural history of the region by conserving and exhibiting the buildings and collections for the public and delivering innovative education programs. Appropriate day-use activities, such as photography and picnicking, are permitted and encouraged at these sites, but controlled hunting is not. Facilities/infrastructure (buildings, water lines, and waste disposal systems) may also be in place to accommodate the use of these sites.

7.0 Review Process (O. Reg 686/21, 10.(1) 5)

Periodic reviews are essential to ensure the objectives, goals, and actions laid out in the Conservation Area Strategy are adapting with changing environmental conditions and challenges, as well as changing laws and regulations. Periodic reviews also provide the opportunity to review the outcomes of the goals and their associated actions, to evaluate successes and failures and allow for accountability and continuous improvement.

7.1 Public Consultation

Public engagement for the Conservation Area Strategy was undertaken in two phases. The first phase involved posting information regarding the development of the strategy and the associated regulatory requirements of Ontario Regulation 686/21 on the ERCA's dedicated website for the Conservation Area Strategy.

The second phase of the consultation process involved the circulation of the draft Conservation Area Strategy to the ERCA's Conservation Advisory Board and the ERCA's Board of Directors

prior to the strategy being made available for broader consultation. The intent of the circulation of the draft strategy was to provide an overview of the regulatory requirements and how ERCA staff had completed the document to incorporate these requirements. At this stage, the document will benefit from a broader review and will incorporate comments received through the consultation in order to complete a final strategy.

7.2 Periodic Review

Ontario Regulation 686/21 requires a process for the periodic review and updating of the Conservation Area Strategy including procedures to ensure stakeholders and the public are consulted during the review and update process. In this regard, the Conservation Area Strategy should be reviewed within a year after the appointment of a new Board of Directors for the ERCA. This timing allows for consideration of environmental, social and economic impacts while also aligning with the municipal election cycle in Ontario. A review can also be undertaken within the four-year period noted to address significant issues if they arise.

Stakeholder and public consultation will be undertaken during the above noted review periods to ensure awareness and transparency regarding the Conservation Area Strategy.

References

[Conservation Authorities Act, R. S. O. 1990, c. C.27](#)

[O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services](#)

Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada. (1995). *Invasive Plants of Natural Habitats in Canada*.

Essex Region Conservation Authority. (2009). *ERCA Forestry Manual*.

Essex Region Conservation Authority. (2009). *ERCA Tree Risk Management Program for the Essex Region Conservation Authority*

[Essex Region Conservation Authority. \(2016\). *Sustaining the Place for Life: Strategic Plan \(2016-2025\)*](#)

Essex Region Conservation Authority. (2021). Point Pelee National Park Ecological Connectivity/Restoration Project, a Report to Parks Canada

Manning, S. & Miller, J. (2011). Manual, Mechanical, and Cultural Control Methods and Tools. In *Invasive Plant Management Issues and Challenges in the United States* (pp. 231-244

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. (2017). *RX100 Low Complexity Prescribed Burn Worker*

INTERIM 2024 DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For The 7 Months Ending July 31, 2024

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SERVICES						
CATEGORY 1 MANDATORY SERVICES - RISKS OF NATURAL HAZARDS						
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	413,717	241,384	310,253	540,750	57%	535,750
SELF-GENERATED FEES	552,194	349,684	338,788	576,000	59%	525,000
	<u>965,911</u>	<u>591,068</u>	<u>649,040</u>	<u>1,116,750</u>	58%	<u>1,060,750</u>
WAGES	622,858	396,801	370,842	856,000	43%	684,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	22,217	11,124	21,073	29,250	72%	31,250
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	19,552	13,341	14,526	18,500	79%	18,500
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	108,609	68,835	72,448	143,000	51%	125,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	60,250	30,000	30,500	64,000	48%	64,000
DUES/MEMBERSHIPS	1,216	677	862	1,000	86%	1,000
AUDIT AND LEGAL	17,189	7,700	16,577	5,000	332%	15,000
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	432	-	357	-		-
SMALL MISC	-	-	-	-		-
	<u>852,323</u>	<u>528,479</u>	<u>527,184</u>	<u>1,116,750</u>	47%	<u>938,750</u>
PLANNING RELATED TO HAZARDS						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	103,150	96,163	15,546	26,650	58%	26,650
SELF GENERATED FEES	116,940	63,840	50,850	130,000	39%	92,000
	<u>220,090</u>	<u>160,003</u>	<u>66,396</u>	<u>156,650</u>	42%	<u>118,650</u>
WAGES	126,961	88,809	66,473	118,500	56%	114,500
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	748	479	585	2,150	27%	2,150
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	250	250	366	500	73%	500
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	20,856	14,543	11,668	20,500	57%	15,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	11,250	7,500	5,625	15,000	38%	11,000
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	687	-	-	-		-
	<u>160,752</u>	<u>111,581</u>	<u>84,717</u>	<u>156,650</u>	54%	<u>143,150</u>
FLOOD /EROSION PROGRAM (S.39 PROV \$)						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	121,247	62,220	67,067	106,083	63%	111,083
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	104,417	60,910	60,910	104,417	58%	104,417
	<u>225,664</u>	<u>123,130</u>	<u>127,977</u>	<u>210,500</u>	61%	<u>215,500</u>
WAGES	124,927	69,181	74,470	111,000	67%	123,500
CONSULTING/INFO'N/DATA SVCS	36,691	26,031	23,567	50,000	47%	44,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	6,583	2,186	3,958	4,000	99%	4,000
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	8,201	4,128	4,062	6,000	68%	6,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	27,830	14,989	17,477	30,500	57%	29,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	8,000	4,000	4,500	9,000	50%	9,000
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	0	-	-	-		-
	<u>212,233</u>	<u>120,515</u>	<u>128,035</u>	<u>210,500</u>	61%	<u>215,500</u>
OTHER WMS TERM PROJECTS						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	95,700	28,292	88,958	152,500	58%	152,500
OTHER GRANTS/USER FEES/RECOVERIES	-	-	-	30,000	0%	-
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(48,500)	25,000	(35,000)	42,000	-83%	(80,000)
	<u>47,200</u>	<u>53,292</u>	<u>53,958</u>	<u>224,500</u>	24%	<u>72,500</u>
DIRECT WAGES	14,164	9,363	7,305	60,000	12%	23,500
CONSULTING/OUTSIDE ENGINEERING	31,035	18,471	40,063	155,000	26%	41,500
TRAVEL/VEHICLE/ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEAD	2,000	-	1,474	9,500	16%	7,500
	<u>47,199</u>	<u>27,834</u>	<u>48,841</u>	<u>224,500</u>	22%	<u>72,500</u>

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
SUMMARY - CATEGORY 1 WMS MANDATORY SERVICES, RISKS OF NATURAL HAZARDS						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	733,814	428,059	481,823	825,983	58%	825,983
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	104,417	60,910	60,910	104,417	58%	104,417
SELF-GENERATED FEES	669,134	413,524	389,638	706,000	55%	617,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	(48,500)	25,000	(35,000)	42,000	-83%	(80,000)
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	-	-	-	30,000	0%	-
	1,458,865	927,493	897,371	1,708,400	53%	1,467,400
WAGES & BENEFITS	888,909	564,155	519,091	1,145,500	45%	945,500
SUPPLIES/SERVICES/OTHER	197,724	108,169	148,297	334,900	44%	223,400
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	185,873	116,086	121,390	228,000	53%	201,000
	1,272,507	788,410	788,777	1,708,400	46%	1,369,900
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	186,358	139,083	108,594	-		97,500
MUNICIPAL WATER & EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS (50% PROV \$)						
MUNICIPAL	9,375	(4,000)	-	-		-
	9,375	(4,000)	-	-		-
WAGES	462	462	-	-		-
CONSULTING/OUTSIDE ENGINEERING	6,764	6,764	-	-		-
TRAVEL/VEHICLE/ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEAD	2,149	1,547	-	-		-
	9,375	8,772	-	-		-
OTHER MUNICIPAL TERM STUDIES/PROJECTS						
MUNICIPAL	145,036	79,600	6,240	-		6,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	16,404	-	22,171	30,000	74%	22,000
	161,440	79,600	28,411	30,000	95%	28,000
WAGES	28,363	11,131	19,514	25,500	77%	19,000
CONSULTING/OUTSIDE ENGINEERING	127,885	98,681	5,497	-		6,000
TRAVEL/VEHICLE/ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEAD	5,194	1,311	3,400	4,500	76%	3,000
	161,441	111,122	28,411	30,000	95%	28,000
SUMMARY CATEGORY 1 MANDATORY SERVICES - WECI PROJECTS AND MUNICIPAL SPECIAL STUDIES						
MUNICIPAL	154,411	75,600	6,240	-		6,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	16,404	-	22,171	30,000	74%	22,000
	170,815	75,600	28,411	30,000	95%	28,000
WAGES & BENEFITS	28,825	11,593	19,514	25,500	77%	19,000
CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING/SUPPLIES	136,195	106,991	5,497	-		6,000
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	5,796	1,311	3,400	4,500	76%	3,000
	170,816	119,895	28,411	30,000	95%	28,000
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1)	(44,294)	-	-		-

CONSERVATION SERVICES

CATEGORY 1 MANDATORY SERVICES - CONSERVATION LANDS MANAGEMENT

GENERAL PROGRAM OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT PLANS & LAND STRATEGIES

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	204,715	121,114	113,983	195,400	58%	195,400
FEDERAL GRANTS	116,478	52,309	35,831	8,000	448%	35,831
SELF-GENERATED FEES	824	-	-	-		-
	322,017	171,726	149,814	203,400	74%	231,231
WAGES	237,834	135,052	81,952	169,540	48%	166,440
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING	41,097	36,176	16,146	-		16,104
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	7,297	4,445	2,015	950	212%	2,545
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIPT USAGE	2,906	1,714	6,393	910	703%	3,480
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	32,826	17,304	13,381	32,000	42%	25,832
	321,960	194,691	119,887	203,400	59%	214,401

CONSERVATION AREAS/GREEWAYS/OWNED PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	775,110	452,148	556,649	954,255	58%	954,255
FEDERAL GRANTS	5,796	-	-	-		-
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	30,870	-	4,318	15,500	28%	17,500
SELF-GENERATED USER FEES	96,073	44,205	39,849	94,000	42%	99,250
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(20,436)	-	(250)	8,500	-3%	10,500
TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	-	-	13,000	(10,000)	-130%	7,500
	887,414	496,352	613,566	1,062,255	58%	1,089,005
WAGES	380,512	206,396	214,262	493,822	43%	439,530
CONSTRUCTION	3,454	1,011	13,764	10,000	138%	14,000

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING	20,885	-	5,548	10,000	55%	10,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	67,703	39,825	44,185	58,742	75%	64,753
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	95,055	85,539	80,685	111,999	72%	110,605
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	2,371	183	-	15,000	0%	15,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	113,954	58,156	74,113	139,442	53%	126,700
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	183,254	150,371	104,607	177,901	59%	184,667
AUDIT AND LEGAL	500	500	-	15,000	0%	-
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	27,377	16,323	31,170	29,349	106%	51,650
	896,089	558,955	568,538	1,062,255	54%	1,017,405

CAPITAL OR MAJOR MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS- Mandatory Programs

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	-	-	5,833	10,000	58%	10,000
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	104,800	104,800	-	400,000	0%	400,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	44,341	44,341	50,000	80,000	63%	50,000
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	19,000	-	125,181	-	-	125,180
TRANSFERS TO/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(90,110)	(91,300)	88,970	202,000	44%	92,970
TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	95,028	-	58,551	563,000	10%	467,084
	173,059	57,841	328,536	1,255,000	26%	1,145,234
WAGES	2,790	402	5,508	13,000	42%	16,406
CONSTRUCTION	20,642	16,861	97,077	1,025,000	9%	963,176
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/SUB CONTRACTING	2,239	42,169	6,606	61,000	11%	105,000
CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	12,014	5,940	1,696	10,000	17%	10,295
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	-	-	-	2,000	0%	2,000
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	-	-	-	5,000	0%	5,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	3,422	-	4,448	19,000	23%	18,016
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	16,745	994	(0)	118,000	0%	23,000
SMALL MISC	-	-	616	2,000	31%	2,616
	57,852	66,367	115,950	1,255,000	9%	1,145,509

TREE PLANTING AND RESTORATION - ERCA LANDS

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	113,100	65,975	52,325	89,700	58%	89,700
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	-	-	119,999	-	-	120,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	11,775	11,775	4,000	-	-	-
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	4,700	4,700	-	-	-	-
SELF GENERATED FEES	8,342	8,750	-	-	-	-
	137,917	91,200	176,324	89,700	197%	209,700
WAGES	48,649	14,935	20,451	33,000	62%	41,000
CONSTRUCTION	17,808	17,808	-	-	-	120,000
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/SUB CONTRACTING	18,083	2,000	1,526	2,000	76%	2,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	7,340	6,293	1,515	6,850	22%	6,850
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	3,147	2,965	2,169	4,350	50%	5,350
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	3,052	3,052	-	30,500	0%	21,500
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	14,517	6,766	4,011	13,000	31%	13,000
	112,596	53,819	29,673	89,700	33%	209,700

FLEET & FIELD EQUIPMENT

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	-	-	13,533	23,200	58%	23,200
RECOVERIES/CHARGEBACKS	226,377	163,750	147,219	209,200	70%	204,200
TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	45,000	33,000	-	-	-	-
	271,377	196,750	160,752	232,400	69%	227,400
MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS	55,071	29,042	50,979	62,000	82%	62,000
FUEL	47,226	23,010	19,756	57,500	34%	57,500
LICENCES/MISC/SMALL TOOLS	28,258	13,761	8,763	20,900	42%	20,900
AMORTIZATION	90,524	-	-	103,000	0%	103,000
	221,078	65,814	79,498	243,400	33%	243,400

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
SUMMARY CATEGORY 1 MANDATORY SERVICES -LAND MGMT, (OWNED) CONSERVATION AREAS OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	1,092,925	639,237	742,324	1,272,555	58%	1,272,555
MUNICIPAL	-	(1,697)	-	-		-
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	104,800	104,800	119,999	400,000	30%	520,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	178,390	108,425	89,831	88,000	102%	85,831
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	54,570	4,700	129,499	15,500	835%	142,680
SELF-GENERATED FEES	331,616	216,705	187,068	303,200	62%	303,450
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	(95,546)	(76,300)	88,720	210,500	42%	103,470
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	140,028	33,000	71,551	553,000	13%	474,584
	1,806,784	1,028,870	1,428,992	2,842,755	50%	2,902,570
WAGES & BENEFITS	677,407	361,965	328,295	716,362	46%	670,376
CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING/SUPPLIES	689,113	426,006	418,545	1,829,451	23%	1,876,116
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	258,055	166,707	166,707	307,942	54%	283,923
	1,624,574	954,678	913,547	2,853,755	32%	2,830,415
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	182,209	74,192	515,445	(11,000)	-4686%	72,155

CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY PROGRAMS/SERVICES - ONGOING CONSERVATION-RELATED PROGRAMS

LAND SECUREMENT & ACQUISITION

NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	40,000	23,333	80,211	-		137,500
OTHER INCOME	-	-	70,985	-		71,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM LAND ACQ FUND	14,132	(17,578)	(68,752)	57,500	-120%	(80,000)
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM RESERVES	-	-	(71,000)	-		(71,000)
	54,132	5,756	11,444	57,500	20%	57,500
WAGES	5,303	4,555	1,358	2,500	54%	2,500
LEGAL, SURVEYING,CONSULTNG	176	23,779	-	50,000	0%	50,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	381	-	-	-		-
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	1,462	766	217	5,000	4%	5,000
	7,322	29,100	1,575	57,500	3%	57,500

RESTORATION/TREE PLANTING PROGRAM - NON ERCA PROPERTIES

NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	75,000	43,750	43,750	75,000	58%	75,000
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	53,450	25,000	-	50,000	0%	50,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	167,446	104,215	37,360	160,000	23%	160,000
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	77,479	64,335	97,765	-		112,858
SELF-GENERATED FEES	221,336	152,401	202,252	205,000	99%	201,600
IN-KIND	14,207	14,207	7,984	10,000	80%	10,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(39,250)	79,250	-	29,700	0%	10,042
	569,668	483,158	389,111	529,700	73%	619,500
WAGES	215,477	138,063	138,198	160,500	86%	211,500
CONSTRUCTION	-	-	29,887	-		30,000
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/SUB-CONTRACTING	805	765	-	-		-
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	12,362	9,523	7,125	18,200	39%	14,500
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	46,653	44,098	43,481	49,000	89%	49,500
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	209,971	209,767	219,464	207,500	106%	220,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	60,228	62,472	49,956	75,000	67%	75,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	9,600	5,000	4,800	9,000	53%	9,000
IN KIND SVCS SUPPLIES	14,207	14,207	7,984	10,000	80%	10,000
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	366	366	-	500	0%	-
	569,668	484,261	500,895	529,700	95%	619,500

HOLIDAY BEACH (OPERATED UNDER MGMT AGREEMENT)

SELF GENERATED	393,157	276,625	305,219	399,000	76%	399,775
INTERDEPT TRANSFER	-	-	-	-		7,500
TRANSFERS TO/FROM RESERVES	(7,040)	5,494	-	(13,000)	0%	8,000
	388,070	282,119	305,219	386,000	79%	417,475
WAGES	191,036	125,097	123,146	188,700	65%	203,256
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/SUB CONTRACTING	13,515	12,795	3,449	3,500	99%	3,500
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	69,211	42,881	47,159	64,800	73%	76,441
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	29,279	14,298	14,245	25,500	56%	22,750
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	33,642	24,083	25,554	40,500	63%	39,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	42,656	22,941	21,919	45,000	49%	44,250
MAJOR MAINT/ROADS/VEGETATION	8,814	3,986	28,298	17,500	162%	27,500
	388,152	246,081	264,301	386,000	68%	417,197

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
SUMMARY CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - ERCA ONGOING CORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS						
NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	115,000	67,083	123,961	75,000	165%	212,500
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	53,450	25,000	-	50,000	0%	50,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	169,399	104,215	37,360	160,000	23%	162,200
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	77,479	64,335	97,765	-	-	112,858
SELF-GENERATED FEES	614,494	429,025	578,456	604,000	96%	679,875
IN-KIND	14,207	14,207	7,984	10,000	80%	10,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	(25,118)	61,672	(68,752)	87,200	-79%	(69,958)
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	(7,040)	5,494	(71,000)	(13,000)	546%	(63,000)
	<u>1,011,871</u>	<u>771,032</u>	<u>705,773</u>	<u>973,200</u>	<u>73%</u>	<u>1,094,475</u>
WAGES & BENEFITS	411,816	267,715	262,702	351,700	75%	417,256
OTHER OPERATING/SITE SUPPLIES/PROF SERVICES	408,002	371,134	388,534	453,000	86%	509,941
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	145,324	120,594	115,534	168,500	69%	167,000
	<u>965,142</u>	<u>759,442</u>	<u>766,771</u>	<u>973,200</u>	<u>79%</u>	<u>1,094,197</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	46,729	11,590	(60,997)	-	-	278

CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - FIXED TERM SPECIAL PROJECTS AND FEE FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS						
NON MANDATORY RESTORATION PROJECTS & HABITAT-RELATED STUDIES						
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	24,000	24,000	-	-	-	-
FEDERAL GRANTS	85,000	75,000	145,000	-	-	145,000
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	57,000	-	-	68,000	0%	68,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(44,307)	15,459	18,603	-	-	-
	<u>121,693</u>	<u>114,459</u>	<u>163,603</u>	<u>68,000</u>	<u>241%</u>	<u>213,000</u>
WAGES	29,125	15,328	26,582	8,000	332%	8,000
CONSTRUCTION	25,650	25,650	21,580	33,000	65%	53,000
ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/SUB-CONTRACTING	43,039	40,627	40,724	7,000	582%	47,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	7,023	5,748	220	2,000	11%	2,000
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	1,806	646	39	500	8%	500
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	9,800	9,800	-	14,000	0%	14,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	3,900	900	2,924	3,500	84%	3,500
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	1,350	675	-	-	-	-
EQUIP'T/FIXED ASSETS	-	-	83,603	-	-	85,000
	<u>121,693</u>	<u>99,374</u>	<u>175,672</u>	<u>68,000</u>	<u>258%</u>	<u>213,000</u>

FEE FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS						
SELF-GENERATED FEES	14,276	6,517	4,319	31,200	14%	11,719
	<u>14,276</u>	<u>6,517</u>	<u>4,319</u>	<u>31,200</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>11,719</u>
WAGES	6,423	2,385	2,554	12,500	20%	5,410
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	3,684	2,269	2,202	5,800	38%	2,946
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	1,969	870	583	4,700	12%	1,363
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	400	-	100	6,400	2%	200
SMALL MISC	1,800	1,800	-	1,800	0%	1,800
	<u>14,276</u>	<u>7,324</u>	<u>5,439</u>	<u>31,200</u>	<u>17%</u>	<u>11,719</u>

SUMMARY CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - FEE FOR SERVICE CONTRACTS AND TERM LIMITED PROJECTS						
MUNICIPAL SPECIAL PROJECTS/OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	24,000	24,000	-	-	-	-
FEDERAL GRANTS	85,000	75,000	145,000	-	-	145,000
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	57,000	-	-	68,000	0%	68,000
SELF-GENERATED FEES	14,276	6,517	4,319	31,200	14%	11,719
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	(44,307)	15,459	18,603	-	-	-
	<u>135,969</u>	<u>120,976</u>	<u>167,921</u>	<u>99,200</u>	<u>169%</u>	<u>224,719</u>
WAGES & BENEFITS	35,548	17,712	29,136	20,500	142%	13,410
CONSTRUCTION/SUPPLIES/OTHER	89,062	84,300	146,227	64,200	228%	203,000
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	11,359	4,685	5,748	14,500	40%	8,309
	<u>135,969</u>	<u>106,697</u>	<u>181,111</u>	<u>99,200</u>	<u>183%</u>	<u>224,719</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	14,279	(13,189)	-	-	-

WATERSHED RESEARCH

CATEGORY 1 MANDATORY SERVICE - DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION AND PROV SURFACE/GROUND WATER MONITORING PROGRAMS

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	21,285	12,416	10,704	18,350	58%	18,350
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	148,362	86,333	12,884	114,400	11%	121,900
OTHER GRANTS/USER FEES/RECOVERIES	1,616	-	175	-		-
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(20,652)	(21,022)	53,271	-		-
	<u>150,612</u>	<u>77,728</u>	<u>77,034</u>	<u>132,750</u>	58%	<u>140,250</u>
WAGES	116,283	66,627	62,565	105,848	59%	111,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	2,467	617	2,703	700	386%	1,700
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	3,607	2,855	2,553	4,000	64%	4,700
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	18,241	9,506	9,632	14,102	68%	14,500
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	2,650	1,000	1,750	3,500	50%	3,500
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	1,207	-	-	-		-
PER DIEMS/MISC	3,625	1,625	3,250	4,600	71%	4,600
	<u>148,080</u>	<u>82,230</u>	<u>82,453</u>	<u>132,750</u>	62%	<u>140,000</u>

CATEGORY 2 MUNICIPAL SERVICES - RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES (PART IV CWA, 2006)

MUNICIPAL SPECIAL PROJECTS/OTHER	9,412	-	(0)	14,600	0%	10,500
	<u>9,412</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(0)</u>	<u>14,600</u>	0%	<u>10,500</u>
WAGES	5,973	4,965	3,922	9,100	43%	5,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	719	84	120	500	24%	500
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	-	-	600	1,500	40%	1,500
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	1,221	808	789	1,500	53%	1,500
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	1,500	1,000	1,000	2,000	50%	2,000
	<u>9,412</u>	<u>6,856</u>	<u>6,431</u>	<u>14,600</u>	44%	<u>10,500</u>

CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICE - ONGOING ERCA CORE WATER QUALITY/RESEARCH PROGRAM

WATERSHED WATER QUALITY PROGRAM						
NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	-	-	14,583	25,000	58%	25,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	5,000	-	-	-		-
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES/PROJECT TRANSFERS	37,445	9,100	20,957	43,955	48%	31,000
	<u>42,445</u>	<u>9,100</u>	<u>35,541</u>	<u>68,955</u>	52%	<u>56,000</u>
WAGES	12,580	5,180	7,271	30,995	23%	21,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	2,594	1,211	1,681	2,400	70%	2,700
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	6,343	5,724	5,560	8,060	69%	9,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	6,094	3,614	3,637	10,000	36%	10,300
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	50%	2,000
TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT/LAB SERVICES	13,002	6,512	7,142	15,500	46%	11,000
	<u>42,613</u>	<u>23,242</u>	<u>26,292</u>	<u>68,955</u>	38%	<u>56,000</u>

SUMMARY CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - ERCA ONGOING WATER QUALITY/ RESEARCH PROGRAMS

NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	73,000	42,583	14,583	25,000	58%	25,000
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	30,000	15,000	15,000	-		15,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	5,000	-	-	-		-
SELF-GENERATED	23,255	-	3,403	-		-
IN-KIND	10,665	2,235	-	-		-
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	42,446	9,100	17,554	43,955	40%	16,000
	<u>184,366</u>	<u>68,918</u>	<u>50,541</u>	<u>68,955</u>	73%	<u>56,000</u>
WAGES & BENEFITS	95,495	58,422	7,271	30,995	23%	21,000
SUPPLIES/TECH SERVICES/EQUIP'T	60,300	20,725	10,639	19,960	53%	16,700
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	41,114	25,711	8,381	18,000	47%	18,300
	<u>196,909</u>	<u>104,858</u>	<u>26,292</u>	<u>68,955</u>	38%	<u>56,000</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>(12,543)</u>	<u>(35,940)</u>	<u>24,249</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>

CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - TERM LIMITED GRANT-FUNDED/FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROJECTS/STUDIES

DETROIT RIVER CANADIAN CLEANUP						
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	100,000	50,000	76,786	90,000	85%	90,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	109,750	63,500	17,250	75,000	23%	75,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(20,908)	2,759	11,467	15,500	74%	8,500
	<u>188,842</u>	<u>116,259</u>	<u>105,503</u>	<u>180,500</u>	58%	<u>173,500</u>

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
WAGES	139,171	78,490	76,477	137,500	56%	130,500
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	17,198	11,730	9,050	2,600	348%	2,600
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	2,111	1,276	742	1,000	74%	1,000
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	-	-	-	10,000	0%	10,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	24,595	13,523	14,322	27,000	53%	27,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	2,400	1,200	1,200	2,400	50%	2,400
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	3,367	-	2,386	-	-	-
	<u>188,842</u>	<u>106,219</u>	<u>104,177</u>	<u>180,500</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>173,500</u>

OTHER WATER QUALITY STUDIES (FED\$ & PROV\$)						
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	33,103	24,889	-	-	-	61,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	56,695	4,791	171,548	-	-	188,548
OTHER	(6,529)	-	-	-	-	-
IN-KIND	34,943	13,288	39,650	-	-	39,650
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	50,440	50,440	3,375	-	-	3,375
	<u>168,651</u>	<u>93,408</u>	<u>214,573</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>292,573</u>

WAGES	67,532	42,034	51,050	-	-	71,605
CONSULTING/SUB CONTRACTING	8,564	8,241	3,277	-	-	5,000
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	6,201	5,158	6,371	-	-	6,651
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	847	847	2,013	-	-	3,099
PLANT MAT/LANDOWNER GRANTS	33,395	13,305	107,115	-	-	107,115
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	12,376	8,668	12,053	-	-	8,422
IN KIND SVCS SUPPLIES	34,943	13,288	39,650	-	-	39,650
AUDIT AND LEGAL	-	-	4,503	-	-	4,503
TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT	4,793	4,793	46,441	-	-	46,737
	<u>168,651</u>	<u>96,334</u>	<u>272,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>292,782</u>

OTHER WATER QUALITY FEE FOR SERVICE (SAMPLING/DATA/ANALYSIS)						
FEDERAL GRANTS	41,873	27,660	9,438	27,100	35%	27,100
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES/PROJECT TRANSFERS	1,041	1,441	(3,403)	-	-	-
	<u>42,914</u>	<u>29,100</u>	<u>6,034</u>	<u>27,100</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>27,100</u>

WAGES	27,921	17,789	7,635	19,500	39%	20,600
CONSULTING/SUB CONTRACTING	2,483	1,843	-	-	-	-
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	1,912	850	247	1,500	16%	500
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	4,709	2,756	1,179	2,600	45%	2,500
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	5,392	3,235	1,331	3,000	44%	3,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	500	-	-	500	0%	500
	<u>42,917</u>	<u>26,472</u>	<u>10,392</u>	<u>27,100</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>27,100</u>

SUMMARY CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - TERM LIMITED GRANT-FUNDED/FEE-FOR-SERVICE PROJECTS/STUDIES						
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	133,103	74,889	76,786	90,000	85%	151,000
FEDERAL GRANTS	208,318	95,951	198,236	102,100	194%	290,648
SELF-GENERATED	(6,529)	-	(3,403)	-	-	-
IN-KIND	34,943	13,288	39,650	-	-	39,650
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	30,573	54,640	14,842	15,500	96%	11,875
	<u>400,407</u>	<u>238,767</u>	<u>326,110</u>	<u>207,600</u>	<u>157%</u>	<u>493,173</u>
WAGES & BENEFITS	234,624	138,313	135,162	157,000	86%	222,705
SUBSIDIES/MATERIALS/TECH SVCS/EQUIP'T	116,044	60,674	220,310	17,600	1252%	226,155
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	49,742	30,039	31,571	33,000	96%	44,521
	<u>400,410</u>	<u>229,026</u>	<u>387,043</u>	<u>207,600</u>	<u>186%</u>	<u>493,382</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(2)	9,741	(60,932)	-	-	(209)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

GENERAL SERVICES						
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS						
MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	181,600	105,933	117,192	200,900	58%	200,900
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	5,000	1,250	2,500	5,000	50%	5,000
	<u>186,600</u>	<u>107,183</u>	<u>119,692</u>	<u>205,900</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>205,900</u>
WAGES	164,561	88,373	100,430	188,000	53%	167,000
CONSULTING	1,574	-	-	5,000	0%	-
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	13,491	9,153	12,250	12,200	100%	17,700
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIP'T USAGE	500	500	1,527	250	611%	1,550
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	-	-	357	450	79%	5,500
	<u>180,126</u>	<u>98,026</u>	<u>114,564</u>	<u>205,900</u>	<u>56%</u>	<u>191,750</u>

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - ONGOING ERCA STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH & EDUCATION						
OUTDOOR & CONSERVATION EDUCATION						
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	42,750	28,500	26,957	45,000	60%	50,000
SELF-GENERATED	16,130	8,369	20,715	25,000	83%	30,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	-	-	-	30,330	0%	6,000
	58,880	36,869	47,672	100,330	48%	86,000
WAGES	46,425	26,982	36,998	73,500	50%	59,200
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	2,004	1,215	1,614	2,750	59%	2,800
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIPT USAGE	2,122	1,645	854	2,480	34%	2,400
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	7,439	4,524	5,982	13,000	46%	13,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	1,600	800	800	1,600	50%	1,600
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	-	-	-	7,000	0%	7,000
	59,590	35,166	46,248	100,330	46%	86,000
OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT						
NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	34,150	19,921	33,337	57,150	58%	57,150
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	33,186	16,811	5,500	24,000	23%	48,500
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	17,009	10,000	-	-	-	(2,000)
	84,345	46,732	38,837	81,150	48%	103,650
WAGES	47,957	28,410	36,002	44,500	81%	58,700
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	5,819	4,296	5,805	3,000	194%	7,800
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIPT USAGE	4,008	2,178	2,469	4,000	62%	4,000
PARTNER GRANTS/PLANT MATERIAL	13,725	9,451	16,695	15,000	111%	18,000
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	10,637	6,507	9,298	12,000	77%	12,000
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	2,200	1,208	1,200	2,400	50%	2,400
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	-	-	112	250	45%	250
	84,681	52,051	71,988	81,150	89%	103,650
JOHN R PARK HOMESTEAD MUSEUM OPERATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING						
NON MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	150,962	88,061	93,399	160,112	58%	160,112
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	23,688	-	-	23,688	0%	23,688
FEDERAL GRANTS	16,087	-	-	9,000	0%	9,000
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	1,809	526	25,073	28,750	87%	25,750
SELF-GENERATED FEES	132,840	96,940	95,009	134,000	71%	125,935
INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEF REVENUES	23,750	-	-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM RESERVES	(15,000)	(8,750)	(8,750)	(15,000)	58%	-
	334,136	176,777	204,731	340,550	60%	354,485
WAGES	209,438	111,650	130,939	223,000	59%	232,780
CONSULTING/SUB K	-	-	520	-	-	520
SUPPLIES/OFFICE/JANITORIAL	59,928	43,400	37,454	50,750	74%	49,280
VEHICLE/TRAVEL/EQUIPT USAGE	1,368	2,741	2,866	1,450	198%	3,760
CORP SUPPORT/SHARED SVCS	30,404	16,246	18,728	30,250	62%	30,250
RENT/INS/TAXES/UTILITIES	36,002	15,285	16,080	34,200	47%	35,900
CAP MAINT/LOW VALUE ASSETS	720	720	1,375	600	229%	1,140
	338,041	190,223	208,454	340,550	61%	354,430
SUMMARY CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - COMMUNITY OUTREACH, EDUCATION & JRPH MUSEUM OPERATIONS						
NON MANDATORY COST APPORTIONMENT	185,112	107,982	126,736	217,262	58%	217,262
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	23,688	-	-	23,688	0%	23,688
FEDERAL GRANTS	16,087	-	-	9,000	0%	9,000
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	65,802	44,769	57,030	93,750	61%	123,750
SELF-GENERATED FEES	160,914	106,378	116,224	163,000	71%	156,435
INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	40,759	10,000	-	30,330	0%	4,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	(15,000)	(8,750)	(8,750)	(15,000)	58%	-
	477,362	260,379	291,240	522,030	56%	544,135
WAGES & BENEFITS	303,819	167,043	203,939	341,000	60%	350,680
OTHER OPERATING/SITE SUPPLIES/PROF SERVICES	123,664	79,157	85,345	118,980	72%	131,670
INTERNAL RECOVERIES FOR SHARED SVCS/FLEET	54,829	31,239	37,406	62,050	60%	61,730
	482,312	277,439	326,690	522,030	63%	544,080
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(4,950)	(17,060)	(35,450)	-		55
CATEGORY 3 NON MANDATORY SERVICES - FUNDRAISING/COMMUNITY EVENTS & GRANT FUNDED TERM PROJECTS						
FEDERAL GRANTS	329,000	329,000	-	-	-	-
FOUNDATION & OTHER GRANTS	71,216	48,922	7,250	-	-	32,000
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(16,900)	7,600	25,500	24,000	106%	24,500
	383,316	385,522	32,750	24,000	136%	56,500

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
WAGES	89,091	70,512	5,232	9,000	58%	15,750
TREES/SUPPLIES	316,244	280,803	7,604	15,000	51%	40,750
	405,335	351,315	12,836	24,000	53%	56,500

CORPORATE SERVICES

GENERAL SERVICES- CORPORATE & SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNANCE, RISK, COMPLIANCE, HR, FINANCE & IM/IT

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	540,500	315,292	252,758	433,300	58%	433,300
RECOVERIES/CHARGEBACKS	591,497	359,168	370,826	661,000	56%	620,000
INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME	259,696	127,066	201,502	210,000	96%	335,000
OTHER	3,238	1,505	317	1,400	23%	1,400
INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	-	(16,500)
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM DEFERRED REVENUES	(25,000)	-	-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS (TO)/FROM RESERVES	(44,747)	(21,000)	(30,446)	(44,000)	69%	(74,000)
	1,325,184	782,031	794,957	1,261,700	63%	1,299,200
WAGES	845,484	470,474	492,210	900,500	55%	873,500
MEMBER EXPENSES/CO DUES	59,027	33,920	32,268	58,500	55%	58,500
AUDIT/LEGAL/CONSULTING	20,062	10,661	25,846	30,000	86%	35,000
SUPPLIES/EQUIPT/NETWORK	90,452	50,757	44,852	112,700	40%	91,200
OCCUPANCY/PHONE	143,647	83,207	79,573	138,500	57%	138,500
TRAVEL & BD/STAFF MEETINGS	3,972	2,289	3,292	5,500	60%	6,500
RETIREE BENEFITS	16,278	9,768	10,833	16,000	68%	17,000
	1,178,921	661,076	688,875	1,261,700	55%	1,220,200

CORPORATE SPECIAL PROJECTS (RECORDS/IS/IT)

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	-	-	11,667	20,000	-58%	20,000
TRANSFERS FROM DEF REVENUES	-	-	(8,333)	25,000	-33%	7,000
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES	-	-	-	45,000	0%	-
	-	-	3,334	90,000	4%	27,000
WAGES	-	-	-	10,000	0%	2,000
CONSULTING/OTHER	-	-	-	80,000	0%	25,000
	-	-	-	90,000	0%	27,000

RESERVES- MANDATORY PROGRAMS

MANDATORY LEVY	325,000	189,583	116,667	200,000	58%	200,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	(325,000)	(189,583)	(116,667)	(200,000)	58%	(200,000)
EXTRAORDINARY LOSS/LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	(2,536)	-	-	-	-	-
	(2,536)	0	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY CORPORATE SERVICES

MANDATORY MUNICIPAL COST APPORTIONMENT	865,500	504,875	381,092	653,300	58%	653,300
RECOVERIES/CHARGEBACKS	591,497	359,168	370,826	661,000	56%	620,000
INTEREST	259,696	127,066	201,502	210,000	96%	335,000
OTHER	3,238	1,505	317	1,400	23%	1,400
INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	-	(16,500)
TRANSFER TO/FROM DEF REVENUES	(25,000)	-	(8,333)	25,000	-33%	7,000
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	(369,747)	(210,583)	(147,113)	(199,000)	74%	(274,000)
	1,325,184	782,031	798,291	1,351,700	59%	1,326,200
WAGES & BENEFITS	845,484	470,474	492,210	910,500	54%	875,500
OTHER OPERATING/SUPPLIES/PROF SERVICES	335,973	190,601	196,665	441,200	45%	371,700
	1,181,457	661,076	688,875	1,351,700	51%	1,247,200
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	143,727	120,956	109,416	-	-	79,000

NON MANDATORY SERVICES- ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE & FINANCE SUPPORTS

FOUNDATION SUPPORT GRANT	55,000	22,917	27,500	55,000	50%	55,000
ERCF-RELATED WAGE SUPPORTS	57,401	30,338	37,654	55,000	68%	58,000
NET FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF/(PROVIDED BY) ERCF	(2,401)	(7,421)	(10,154)	-	-	(3,000)

RESERVES- NON-MANDATORY PROGRAMS

NON MANDATORY LEVY	500,000	291,667	-	-	-	-
TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES	(500,000)	(291,667)	-	-	-	-
	0	-	-	-	0%	-

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
BUDGET SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES BY CATEGORY						
General Services (Administration, Finance, Human Resources, IT, & Communications)						
Mandatory Municipal Cost Apportionment	722,100	421,225	381,617	654,200	58%	654,200
Self-generated/Other grants	267,934	129,821	204,319	216,400	94%	324,900
Shared and corporate services recoveries	591,497	359,168	370,826	661,000	56%	620,000
Interdepartmental transfers	-	-	-	-		(16,500)
Deferred Revenue Transfers	(25,000)	-	(8,333)	25,000		7,000
Reserve transfers	(44,747)	(21,000)	(30,446)	1,000		(74,000)
Total revenues - general/administrative programs & services	1,511,784	889,215	917,983	1,557,600	59%	1,515,600
Wages & benefits	1,026,323	568,615	603,474	1,114,500	54%	1,059,500
Office supplies & expenses - other ERCA programs	15,779	10,715	9,255	19,900	47%	18,900
Occupancy, taxes & utilities	143,647	83,207	79,573	139,500	57%	139,500
Equipment, software/hardware & website	64,054	39,530	36,305	79,750	46%	72,600
Technical & sub-contracted services/consulting	8,005	4,344	2,414	89,000	3%	29,000
Insurance	9,310	5,000	4,655	9,000	52%	9,000
Audit & Legal	19,067	10,656	25,541	29,000	88%	34,000
Dues & memberships	43,196	23,644	28,443	43,800	65%	45,000
Travel, training & professional development	10,029	5,080	5,943	13,750	43%	11,050
Board ,committee & meeting expenses	17,914	9,590	8,965	17,500	51%	18,500
Bank, credit card charges and interest	1,724	(1,281)	(1,127)	1,900	-59%	1,900
Total operational expenses -general/administrative	1,359,048	759,102	803,439	1,557,600	52%	1,438,950
Total Surplus/(Deficit)-General/Administrative Prog & Svcs	152,736	130,113	114,544	-		76,650
Category 1 Mandatory Programs & Services associated with Risks of Hazards, Conservation of Lands*, & DWSP						
Mandatory Municipal Cost Apportionment	2,173,024	1,269,295	1,345,685	2,306,888	58%	2,306,888
Municipal Special Project/Other	154,411	73,903	6,240	-		6,000
Other Government \$	386,829	211,327	233,624	226,817	103%	382,148
Self-generated/Other grants	811,559	471,179	433,980	815,500	53%	733,750
Shared services recoveries - Non-Mandatory Programs	87,196	59,167	56,701	78,200	73%	77,325
Deferred Revenue Transfers	(73,183)	3,978	40,192	80,500	50%	(47,500)
Reserve transfers	(280,000)	(156,583)	(103,667)	(180,000)	58%	(192,500)
Total revenues associated with mandatory programs & services	3,259,836	1,932,266	2,012,755	3,327,905	60%	3,266,111
Operational Expenses associated with mandatory services						
Wages & benefits	1,708,635	1,003,906	923,957	1,980,210	47%	1,729,470
Construction	21,262	18,819	13,764	10,000	138%	134,000
Plant material	5,423	3,235	-	45,500	0%	36,500
Maintenance, supplies, contracted services-cons areas	113,290	50,105	72,532	88,905	82%	116,700
Office supplies & expenses - other ERCA programs	15,038	8,540	7,578	10,000	76%	11,295
Occupancy, taxes, utilities & waste removal	174,479	146,278	105,518	166,321	63%	176,988
Maintenance, repairs & supplies-fleet/equipment	110,307	53,424	67,209	121,000	56%	121,000
Equipment, software/hardware & website	16,872	5,620	19,822	14,620	136%	19,950
Technical & sub-contracted services/consulting	249,136	190,165	87,746	210,500	42%	113,104
Insurance	129,050	65,800	66,259	137,967	48%	133,967
Audit & Legal	17,689	8,200	16,577	20,000	83%	15,000
Dues & memberships	1,862	1,322	862	1,500	57%	1,500
Travel, training & professional development	6,750	3,233	6,172	6,198	100%	6,560
Board, committee & meeting expenses	3,625	1,625	3,250	4,600	71%	4,600
Bank, credit card charges and interest	11,937	7,548	7,589	12,040	63%	12,065
Fleet/Equipment replacement	136,811	136,811	79,642	92,000	87%	140,000
Allocated corporate recoveries	344,537	191,410	207,480	406,544	51%	359,532
Total operational expenses -mandatory programs	3,069,237	1,896,041	1,686,363	3,327,905	51%	3,012,931
Operating surplus/(Deficit) - mandatory programs/services	190,599	36,224	326,392	-		253,180
Capital projects associated with Category 1 Programs & Services						
Mandatory Municipal Cost Apportionment	-	-	5,833	10,000	58%	10,000
Transfers from Infrastructure Reserve	95,028	-	58,551	563,000	10%	467,084
Grants from ERCF/Other funders	77,231	57,041	264,150	682,000	39%	668,150
Total revenues associated with capital projects/infrastructure	172,259	57,041	328,534	1,255,000	26%	1,145,234
Construction/engineering-ERCA capital projects (transferred to TCA at y/e)	55,062	65,965	110,443	1,242,000	9%	1,129,103
Wages	1,990	402	5,508	13,000	42%	16,406
Capitalized Infrastructure replacement						
Total ERCA infrastructure investment	57,052	66,367	115,950	1,255,000	9%	1,145,509
Surplus/(Deficit) - Capital Projects	115,207	(9,326)	212,584	-		(275)

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs & Services						
On-going recurring core watershed programs & services						
Non Mandatory Municipal Cost Apportionment	873,112	509,315	265,281	317,262	84%	454,762
Other Government \$	107,138	40,000	15,000	73,688	20%	88,688
Self-generated/Other grants	1,021,815	683,865	888,362	925,750	96%	1,147,918
Interdepartmental Transfers	6,113	-	3,403	-		17,500
Deferred Revenue Transfers	58,087	80,772	(51,198)	161,485		(49,958)
Reserve Transfers	(522,040)	(294,922)	(79,750)	(28,000)	285%	(63,000)
Total revenues-ongoing non-mandatory programs & services	1,728,598	1,123,246	1,075,054	1,619,185	66%	1,749,610
Expenses associated with ERCA ongoing non-mandatory programs & services						
Wages & benefits	868,591	523,577	512,060	778,695	66%	847,436
Construction & consulting engineering	805	23,993	29,887	45,000	66%	75,000
Plants, removals and landowner subsidies	250,132	226,537	236,159	222,500	106%	238,000
Supplies	107,192	81,977	74,403	100,450	74%	105,830
Maintenance, repairs & security	35,634	24,477	19,900	28,150	71%	24,350
Occupancy, taxes, utilities & waste removal	67,839	31,014	32,697	65,400	50%	70,690
Equipment, software/hardware & website	12,234	8,755	36,383	37,800	96%	50,490
Lab, data, technical & sub-contracted services	28,062	19,307	11,111	16,500	67%	14,020
Insurance	43,450	22,158	20,950	41,300	51%	41,300
Audit & legal	176	551	-	5,000	0%	5,000
Dues & memberships	5,266	5,007	222	4,150	5%	4,250
Travel, training & professional development	1,592	454	3,118	2,390	130%	3,810
Board ,committee & meeting expenses	120	120	-	300	0%	300
Bank, credit card charges and interest	14,531	10,165	11,211	13,000	86%	14,771
In-kind supplies & services	24,872	16,442	7,984	10,000	80%	10,000
Land acquisition	-	-	-	-		-
Shared services allocations	241,267	177,544	161,322	248,550	65%	247,030
Other misc. supplies	-	-	-	-		-
	1,701,764	1,172,077	1,157,407	1,619,185	71%	1,752,277
Surplus/(Deficit) associated with ERCA-ongoing Cat 3 non-mandatory programs & services	26,834	(48,831)	(82,353)	-		(2,667)
Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs & Services						
Term-limited projects with special grants and fixed terms						
Municipal Special Project/Fee For Service	-	-	-	-		-
Other Government \$	779,421	598,840	420,022	192,100	219%	586,648
Self-generated/Other grants	170,905	68,726	47,815	99,200	48%	151,369
Deferred Revenue Transfer	(30,634)	77,699	58,944	39,500	149%	36,375
Total Revenues assoc w/term ltd 3rd-party funded proj & svcs	919,693	745,265	526,782	330,800	159%	774,392
Expenses assoc w/term ltd 3rd-party funded proj & svcs						
Wages & benefits	359,262	226,537	169,531	186,500	91%	251,865
Construction& consulting engineering	198,134	196,422	62,304	40,000	156%	100,000
Plants, removals and landowner subsidies	69,072	23,105	111,707	34,000	329%	162,115
Program supplies-	83,967	74,603	15,078	5,000	302%	14,151
Occupancy, taxes, utilities & waste removal	355	248	-	5,000	0%	-
Equipment, software/hardware & website	87,659	84,256	135,872	1,800	7548%	135,037
Lab, data, technical & sub-contracted services	21,016	19,354	3,277	1,800	182%	6,800
Insurance, audit & legal	4,650	1,875	5,803	4,300	135%	7,603
Travel, training & professional development	318	266	69	900	8%	800
Bank, credit card charges and interest	1,275	-	-	-		-
In-kind supplies & services	34,943	13,288	39,650	-		39,650
Shared services allocations	81,061	47,085	37,699	51,500	73%	56,580
Other supplies	-	-	-	-		-
	941,713	687,038	580,989	330,800	176%	774,600
Surplus/(Deficit) assoc w/term ltd 3rd party funded proj & svcs	(22,020)	58,227	(54,208)	-		(209)
Capital projects associated with Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs & Services						
Transfers from Infrastructure Reserve	20,570	19,550	467,000	370,000	126%	545,087
Grants from ERCF/Other funders	391,695	150,650	201,637	-		201,636
Total revenues - Cat 3 capital projects/infrastructure	412,265	170,200	668,637	370,000	181%	746,723
Construction/engineering-ERCA capital projects (transferred to TCA at y/e)	327,593	150,663	659,643	357,500	185%	726,221
Wages	40,259	6,692	21,895	12,500	175%	20,448
Capitalized Infrastructure replacement	-	-	-	-		-
Total expenses- Cat 3 capital projects/infrastructure	367,852	157,355	681,538	370,000	184%	746,669
Surplus/(Deficit) - Cat 3 capital projects	44,413	12,845	(12,900)	-		54

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
Category 2 Programs & Services (provided on behalf of one or more municipalities through agreement)						
Municipal Special Project/Other Fee for Service	9,412	-	(0)	14,600	0%	10,500
Total operating revenues - municipal programs & services	9,412	-	(0)	14,600	0%	10,500
Wages & benefits	5,973	4,965	3,922	9,100	43%	5,000
Office supplies & expenses	-	-	-	500	0%	500
Equipment, software/hardware & website	719	84	120	-	-	-
Insurance	1,500	1,000	1,000	2,000	50%	2,000
Travel, training & professional development	-	-	600	1,500	40%	1,500
Shared/corporate services	1,221	808	789	1,500	53%	1,500
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
total expenses	9,412	6,856	6,431	14,600	44%	10,500
Total operating expenses -municipal programs & services	9,412	6,856	6,431	14,600	44%	10,500
Programs/Services	0	(6,856)	(6,431)	-		-

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES-ALL CATEGORIES						
Mandatory municipal cost apportionment Cat 1	\$ 2,895,124	\$ 1,690,520	\$ 1,733,135	\$ 2,971,088	58%	\$ 2,971,088
Non mandatory municipal cost apportionment Cat 3	873,112	509,315	265,281	317,262	84%	454,762
Total Municipal Cost Apportionment	3,768,236	2,199,835	1,998,415	3,288,350	61%	3,425,850
Water & erosion control infrastructure and special projects	154,411	73,903	6,240	-	-	6,000
Municipal risk management services- Cat 2	9,412	-	(0)	14,600	0%	10,500
	3,932,060	2,273,738	2,004,655	3,302,950	61%	3,442,350
Provincial						
Section 39 Flood/Erosion Program	104,417	60,910	60,910	104,417	58%	104,417
Drinking Water Source Protection	147,602	86,333	10,384	114,400	9%	119,400
Other (CMOG, SEO etc.)	369,801	243,689	214,286	563,688	38%	762,188
	621,820	390,932	285,580	782,505	36%	986,005
Federal						
	1,248,195	735,591	547,018	359,100	152%	769,270
Total Government Transfer Payments & Fees-For-Services	5,802,074	3,400,261	2,837,253	4,444,555	64%	5,197,625
Other revenues						
Permit and applicant fees - mandatory services	669,134	413,524	389,638	706,000	55%	617,000
Admissions, program fees & other services	581,570	241,712	120,969	799,600	15%	845,179
Leases & property rentals	93,114	45,460	40,926	94,000	44%	96,000
Donations and other grants						
General	129,195	116,283	94,955	15,000	633%	114,225
Essex Region Conservation Foundation grants	375,987	99,610	272,564	222,250	123%	471,038
In-kind contributions	59,815	29,729	47,634	10,000	476%	49,650
Interest income	261,313	127,066	201,677	210,000	96%	335,000
Gain on sale of assets	13,934	-	-	-	-	-
Total other revenues	2,184,062	1,073,385	1,168,362	2,056,850	57%	2,529,092
Transfers from/(to) deferred revenues	(146,060)	169,000	207,645	508,485	41%	118,957
Interdepartmental recoveries	801,404	522,918	518,045	870,200	60%	824,200
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 8,641,480	\$ 5,165,564	\$ 4,731,305	\$ 7,880,090	60%	\$ 8,669,874
EXPENSES BY CLASSIFICATION						
Wages & benefits	4,011,033	2,334,693	2,240,345	4,094,505	55%	3,930,125
Construction/engineering fees-municipal projects	165,684	123,916	45,560	155,000	29%	47,500
Construction/engineering fees-term grant projects	199,260	197,508	92,191	42,000	220%	252,000
Construction/engineering fees-ERCA capital projects	394,352	271,082	774,489	1,501,000	52%	1,844,400
Plant material, partner/landowner grants-term grant projects	85,309	20,223	111,707	10,000	1117%	138,115
Plant material, partner/landowner grants-ERCA operations	239,318	232,653	236,159	297,000	80%	303,500
Program supplies- term grant projects	83,559	72,340	17,831	6,100	292%	16,551
Site & operational supplies - Conservation Areas	92,643	48,654	46,531	84,711	55%	96,502
Supplies and cost of goods sold - other ERCA operations	115,206	93,553	71,628	111,950	64%	110,840
Occupancy, taxes, utilities & waste removal	386,320	260,747	217,788	375,221	58%	386,178
Maintenance, repairs & security-sites	61,480	36,864	56,705	66,144	86%	85,150
Maintenance, repairs & supplies-fleet/equipment	112,845	55,579	68,375	123,500	55%	123,500
Equipment, software/hardware & website-term grant projects	92,549	84,702	137,981	5,300	2603%	136,537
Equipment, software/hardware & website- ERCA operations	90,419	55,355	93,427	221,170	42%	158,236
Lab, data, technical & sub-contracted services-term grant projects	37,455	34,706	3,277	-	-	5,000
Lab, data, technical & sub-contracted services-ERCA operations	116,515	55,860	52,787	170,800	31%	108,320
Insurance	187,960	95,833	94,164	194,567	48%	189,367
Audit & legal services	36,933	19,407	46,621	54,000	86%	58,503
Dues & memberships	50,324	29,974	29,526	49,450	60%	50,750
Travel, training & professional development	18,188	8,533	13,802	23,238	59%	20,720

	2023 AUDITED	2023 YTD	2024 YTD	2024 BUDGET	% to Budget	2024 PROJECTION
Board, committee & meeting expenses	21,659	11,335	12,215	22,400	55%	23,400
Bank, credit card charges and interest	29,467	16,433	17,672	26,940	66%	28,736
In-kind supplies & services	59,815	29,729	47,634	10,000	476%	49,650
Amortization	420,849	-	-	393,500	0%	393,500
Internal recoveries included in revenues	801,153	522,930	514,579	869,094	59%	824,733
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,910,291	\$ 4,712,608	\$ 5,042,993	\$ 8,907,590	57%	\$ 9,381,812
Total Revenues	8,884,217	5,474,771	5,308,575	7,880,090	67%	8,668,874
Total Expenses	7,912,827	4,712,608	5,042,993	8,907,590	57%	9,381,812
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (ACCRUAL BASIS)	971,390	762,163	265,582	(1,027,500)	-26%	(712,938)
ADD/SUBTRACT: NON CASH ITEMS						
Donation of land to ERCA	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gain/loss on asset disposal	(13,934)	(13,934)	-	-	-	-
Amortization	420,849	-	-	393,500	0%	393,500
Transfers from Reserves (Per Schedule)	-	-	-	-	-	-
DEDUCT: CAPITAL ITEMS						
Land acquisition	(46,810)	(46,810)	-	-	-	-
Purchased fleet/equipment	(150,243)	(150,243)	(79,642)	(92,000)	87%	(140,000)
Infrastructure additions	(159,619)	(159,619)	-	-	-	-
(DECREASE)/INCREASE IN NET SURPLUS (prior to reserve transfers)	1,021,633	391,557	185,940	(726,000)	-26%	(459,438)
TRANSFER (TO)/FROM RESERVES (Per Schedule)	(731,189)	(452,956)	311,688	726,000	43%	682,671
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED ACCUMULATED OPERATING FUND SURPLUS						
	\$ 290,443	\$ (61,399)	\$ 497,628	\$ -		\$ 223,233

MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS:

Watershed Management Services (James Bryant, P.Eng., Director)

Development approvals are down in comparison to the past several years, with legal expenses significantly higher due to an ongoing appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. Other major expenses with some overruns include the ongoing upgrade to PIMS (WMS's application/database for managing property information, applications, and workflow). Departmental deficits are offset by 2024 staff vacancies and significant savings in consulting fees related to the mandatory Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy, as this document currently being prepared inhouse.

Conservation Services (Kevin Money, Director)

Ongoing operational costs associated with managing public Conservation Areas and natural areas is on target. This fall, staff will shift efforts to undertaking maintenance works to Greenway trail vegetation mitigation and hazard tree removals now that migratory/songbird restrictions have concluded for the season.

The restoration of the John R. Park Homestead (Phase 1) continues into the fall and other budgeted capital projects such as the re-cladding of ERCA's main workshop, shoreline erosion works at Hillman Marsh, upgrading parking lot facilities at Maidstone Conservation Area, and a community entrance on Thomas Road are expected to be completed this fall.

The spring tree planting program was completed in mid June, with the planting and distribution of 65,000 trees to residents. This fall, staff will be planting trees in the Fred Cada Memorial Forest at Hillman Marsh along with multiple community-based restoration projects involving volunteers from the community.

Watershed Research

Annual (routine) mandatory and non mandatory water quality sampling occurred without incident and ERCA received grant funding from both Health Canada and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to continue ongoing pesticide and nutrient monitoring of the region's tributaries.

Additional funding agreements from the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans have been received for monitoring aquatic species-at-risk in Essex Region tributaries and for implementing water quality improvement projects in partnership with adjacent landowners.

Community Outreach Services (Danielle Stuebing, Director)

Increased donor funding through the Essex Region Conservation Foundation allowed additional on-the-ground stewardship events, such as tree planting and watershed cleanups, to be scheduled through year end across several municipalities.

Demand for outdoor education programs increased this year, as a result of enhanced engagement with school boards and teachers. However, ongoing capacity challenges resulted in unfulfilled demand for additional program dates.

Staff turnover left the role of Multimedia Specialist vacant for approximately two months. Successful recruitment allowed the position to be filled toward the end of July. Public interest in special events such as the Earth Day Tree Planting, birding events and others continues to be high. With the elimination of the Communications & Event Specialist position these event planning duties continue to be absorbed by the remaining limited staff resources.

John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area

While revenues from school programs and special events are on track to meet or slightly exceed budget, regular admission (by donation) and rental revenues are expected to fall short of anticipated outcomes, largely due to the historic home remaining closed and under restoration. Gift shop sales are also lower than anticipated, due in part to the ongoing construction coupled with the current economic climate. Staff continue to innovate educational and special event programming to minimize the impacts of the house closure, which is anticipated to reopen later this fall.

Corporate Services/Corporate Summary (Shelley McMullen, CFO)

Despite some departmental and program shortfalls, total year to date results are exceeding budget and an unrestricted surplus is forecasted for year end. This is primarily due to **ongoing high interest rates** plus wage savings due to temporary vacant positions and postponements in recruitment for a specialized engineering position. It should be noted that this estimate continually changes and is management's best estimate at the time of report preparation. Potential uses for the surplus include: mitigating 2025 operating budget pressures; addressing outcomes of pay equity compliance and external salary review projects; supplementing the vehicle/equipment pool; or financing the asset management plan or any combination of these uses. It should be noted that the interest revenues are primarily unrestricted and would be a viable source of funding for non-mandatory programs and projects.

Human Resources & Governance Activities (Nicole Kupnicki, Manager)

Recruitment and onboarding of seasonal/summer contract positions has been ongoing since late February. In both Watershed Management Services and Communication Services, two permanent positions have now been filled. There has been some additional voluntary turnover in both seasonal

positions and long-term contract roles (replacing staff on approved leaves of absence) that has extended into Q3. Job descriptions for new positions tied to provincial and federal funding are being finalized with recruitment processes planned into the late fall to recruit staff to support project deliverables in the Water Quality team. Policy development for items arising from the Collective Agreement negotiations that took place earlier this year are currently in draft and will be reviewed/released in Q3/Q4. ERCA Administration had a preliminary discussion with CUPE to initiate the Pay Equity process with further discussion likely occurring later in 2024. At the request of the Executive Committee, ERCA has engaged the services of a consultant for succession planning purposes with a report to follow in Q4.

ERCA held an annual visioning meeting with Chief Mary Duckworth and Council members of Caldwell First Nation to discuss impacts of legislative changes for the Authority, recent collaborations benefiting both ERCA and the Nation, upcoming opportunities for project support, future opportunities and recent successes in integrating indigenous heritage and education into ERCA programming, and opportunities for CFN to appoint representatives on a variety of ERCA, DRCC and SPC committees/advisory boards, etc.

Information Technology & Systems (Ryan Rossman, Director)

In the current fiscal year, we have experienced underspending in the IT budget. This underspending primarily stems from the strategic deferral of several existing infrastructure and new security projects (projects outside of remediation activities to manage identified vulnerabilities from 3rd party report) which are expected to be completed by end of 2024/Q1 2025. These deferrals were made to as a result of the delay of the implementation of the PIMS project (Property Information Management System database).

IT spending aligns closely with our long-term strategy of enhancing our digital infrastructure and improving operational efficiency and security. However, it is important to note that further deferrals could pose risks to our operations, including potential system vulnerabilities and missed opportunities for technological advancement.

To address these needs, changes will be noted in the IT budget for the next fiscal year.



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

BD24/24

From: Kevin Money, Director of Conservation Services

Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024

Subject: John R. Park Homestead Restoration Update

Compliance Action: To meet the conditions of the encumbrance noted on the Sale agreement as set out by the Province of Ontario, 2007 and maintain the Heritage Designation of the historical home and related outbuildings per the [Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18](#)

Recommendation: THAT Report BD24/24 be received as distributed, for Member's information

Summary

- Significant work has been completed to restore the historic manor home and community museum. The majority of the restoration works have been completed to the above ground level components of the house and the remaining works are primarily cosmetic and can be completed by local contractors in the area.
- Total current expenditures utilizing the approved heritage architect/engineer and heritage contractor are approximately \$939,500, leaving approximately \$123,000 in funding available to complete the remaining works on the manor and other structures on the homestead campus.
- Remaining works on the exterior of the historical home involve sanding and painting of limited portions of the exterior of the home and an investigation of foundations on the north face of the manor.
- When the historical manor home is completed, the next priority at this site will be the Horse barn (large white barn), which has known floor subsidence and other structural concerns, and the Tobacco Barn (structure to the east of the manor home) which is utilized for artifact curatorial processes and storage, and is required to have a climate controlled environment.

Discussion

The original architectural structural assessment satisfying heritage standards was completed by a qualified heritage architect. The resulting report proposed that the restoration works be completed on the historic manor over a period of 10 years. Subsequent investigations completed by the architect and ERCA staff revealed the condition of the manor required immediate action on the previously identified structural defects, most significantly, the roof rafters and truss system, and the foundation and sill beams on the lake face of the home. Due to the findings of the above investigations, the availability of

Board approved funding, and significant federal grants, and support from the Foundation, Administration with the support of the Board, determined that the required work to complete the manor home be undertaken in 2024.

All substantial foundation and structural carpentry work for the historic manor are underway and should be completed towards the end of September 2024. Additional sanding and painting of exterior walls on the ground level in the vicinity of current carpentry work will complete the above ground restoration works. Administration is pursuing estimates to complete other final cosmetic aspects of the project (painting and sanding not associated with heritage restoration works).

Potential further foundation work will be identified after inspections are completed using a qualified consultant. At this time, there are no immediate concerns, however, to ensure the structural integrity of the manor being addressed, consideration of these works are required.

The proposed next phase of the site restoration work is the structural repair of the Horse barn. Preliminary assessments have now been completed by a heritage structural engineer which identified concerns with the original foundation, other patchwork repairs which have been undertaken to the building, and subsidence of floorboard members. Once structural components are addressed, other cosmetic items such as exterior board repair and painting would take place. Additional discussions are ongoing with the engineer and architect to refine scope and anticipated costs associated with this next phase of the project.

As recommended by the Finance and Audit Advisory Board (FAAB 03/23) and subsequently approved by the ERCA Board of Directors (BD48/23), ERCA's initial contribution for the first phase of the JRPH restoration efforts on this property was \$500,000. Administration successfully applied for and received a grant through the Canada Cultural Spaces fund in the amount of \$326,900. Additionally, to date approximately \$290,000 has been raised by the Essex Region Conservation Foundation. It is anticipated that phase one of this project will be within the approved budget.

There continues to be very positive and widespread support regarding the restoration of the John R. Park historical site and the Foundation has already secured a commitment for \$100,000 for continued work in 2025. Administration and the Essex Region Conservation Foundation will continue working with the community to raise funds towards the complete restoration of all the buildings given their historical significance.

Approved By:



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:

None



Essex Region Conservation Authority

Board of Directors

BD25/24

From: James Bryant, Director, Watershed Management Services

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Subject: Watershed Management Services Activities Report for June, July & August 2024

Strategic Action: Strategic Action Plan # 12.3 Enhance communication of ERCA's Watershed Management Services.

Recommendation: THAT the review of Regulations and Planning Applications, as presented in Report BD25/24 be received for Members' information

Discussion

This report is provided to the Board as a summary of staff activity related to the Conservation Authority's *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation* (ONT 158/06, made pursuant to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act). It is a summary of staff activity related to the review of municipal planning applications in accordance with the *Planning Act, Environment Assessment Act, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. This report summarizes the month of June, July & August 2024.

Total Regulations and Planning Activity – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	15	
Condominium Pre-submission Meeting	1	
Condominium Request for Conditions	2	Condominium Condition Review
Condominium Request for Conditions	1	Site Plan Control
Condominium Request for Conditions	1	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	36	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	51	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	6	Official Plan Amendment
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	8	Pre-submission Liaison
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Removal of holding zone symbol
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	27	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	24	Zoning By-Law Amendment
COW Standing Committee Review	2	Windsor Standing Committee
Custom Correspondence	1	
Development Review	5	
Environmental Assessment	3	
Hydro One SCR	5	
Lawyers Request	108	
Miscellaneous Developments	277	
Municipal Drainage Engineer	7	
Municipal Drainage SCR	18	
Permit	415	
Pre-consultation	2	Minor Variance
Pre-consultation	1	Pre-consultation draft plan of condominium
Pre-consultation	1	Pre-consultation draft plan of subdivision
Pre-consultation	12	Pre-submission Liaison
Pre-submission Liaison	1	Pre-submission Liaison
Subdivision Clearance of Conditions	5	SUB/Clearance Condition
Subdivision Request for Conditions	2	SUB/Req. Conditions (CTY)

Activity Summary – Amherstburg – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	2	
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	8	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	16	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	6	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Hydro One SCR	1	
Lawyers Request	7	
Miscellaneous Developments	27	
Municipal Drainage Engineer	2	
Municipal Drainage SCR	1	
Permit	51	
Subdivision Clearance of Conditions	1	SUB/Clearance Condition

Activity Summary – Essex – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	1	
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	4	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Minor Variance
Custom Correspondence	1	
Lawyers Request	9	
Miscellaneous Developments	32	
Municipal Drainage SCR	1	
Permit	28	
Pre-consultation	3	Pre-submission Liaison
Subdivision Clearance of Conditions	1	SUB/Clearance Condition
Subdivision Request for Conditions	1	SUB/Req. Conditions (CTY)

Activity Summary – Kingsville – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	2	
Condominium Pre-submission Meeting	1	
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	3	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Pre-submission Liaison
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Development Review	1	
Environmental Assessment	1	
Hydro One SCR	1	
Lawyers Request	21	
Miscellaneous Developments	48	
Municipal Drainage Engineer	2	
Municipal Drainage SCR	1	
Permit	36	
Pre-consultation	1	Pre-consultation draft plan of subdivision
Pre-consultation	2	Pre-submission Liaison

Activity Summary – Lakeshore – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	2	
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	7	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	3	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Development Review	1	
Environmental Assessment	1	
Hydro One SCR	3	

Application	Count	Type
Lawyers Request	22	
Miscellaneous Developments	50	
Municipal Drainage SCR	6	
Permit	132	
Pre-consultation	1	Minor Variance

Activity Summary – LaSalle – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Condominium Request for Conditions	2	Condominium Condition Review
Condominium Request for Conditions	1	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Removal of holding zone symbol
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	4	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	2	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Development Review	2	
Lawyers Request	3	
Miscellaneous Developments	15	
Municipal Drainage Engineer	1	
Permit	18	
Pre-consultation	1	Pre-consultation draft plan of condominium
Subdivision Clearance of Conditions	1	SUB/Clearance Condition

Activity Summary – Leamington – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	4	
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	8	Consent

Application	Count	Type
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	11	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	5	Official Plan Amendment
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	5	Pre-submission Liaison
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	5	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	9	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Lawyers Request	19	
Miscellaneous Developments	55	
Municipal Drainage Engineer	1	
Permit	41	
Pre-consultation	1	Minor Variance
Pre-consultation	1	Pre-submission Liaison
Pre-submission Liaison	1	Pre-submission Liaison
Subdivision Request for Conditions	1	SUB/Req. Conditions (CTY)

Activity Summary – Pelee – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	6	Consent
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	3	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Lawyers Request	2	
Miscellaneous Developments	8	
Permit	18	

Activity Summary – Tecumseh – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	2	
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	4	Consent

Application	Count	Type
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	13	Minor Variance
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Site Plan Control
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	4	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Development Review	1	
Lawyers Request	5	
Miscellaneous Developments	16	
Municipal Drainage Engineer	1	
Municipal Drainage SCR	6	
Permit	30	
Subdivision Clearance of Conditions	2	SUB/Clearance Condition

Activity Summary – Windsor – June, July & August 2024

Application	Count	Type
Clearance	2	
Condominium Request for Conditions	1	Zoning By-Law Amendment
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Official Plan Amendment
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	1	Pre-submission Liaison
Consent/Variance/Zoning/OPA/SPC/OP	7	Site Plan Control
COW Standing Committee Review	2	Windsor Standing Committee
Environmental Assessment	1	
Lawyers Request	20	
Miscellaneous Developments	25	
Municipal Drainage SCR	3	
Permit	60	
Pre-consultation	6	Pre-submission Liaison

Approved By:



Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary Treasurer

Attachments:



Treasury Board Secretariat
Emergency Management Policy and Governance Branch
315 Front Street West
Toronto, ON
M7A0B8

August 26, 2024

Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act" (ERO # 019-8860)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act". Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit comments submitted by individual CAs.

Ontario's 2023 Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan identifies the five core components of emergency management as: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. These components form a cycle to effectively manage and address risks to keep Ontarians safe and informed of potential emergencies. CAs employ an integrated approach to emergency management to keep the public safe and informed about natural hazard emergencies (e.g., flooding and erosion). Through their roles in municipal planning (commenting) and development permitting, CAs review development proposals and support decisions that safeguard people and properties from potential natural hazard impacts. As part of their role in Flood Forecast and Warning, CAs monitor and predict flood flows and water levels based on surface water hydrology information, maintenance of stream flow networks, and weather and climate information. As owners and managers of natural hazard infrastructure, operations are undertaken to mitigate risks to life and damage to property resulting from flooding. CAs work closely with municipal partners, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to undertake these roles and communicate flood statuses and warnings to municipalities, media and the public.

Coordination amongst the many agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response in Ontario enhances emergency management actions and outcomes. The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) through the Provincial Emergency Response

Organization coordinates responses to multi-jurisdictional emergencies. As part of its core functions, the PEOC facilitates the sharing of key information to support decision-makers in emergency situations. Opportunities to enhance coordination between the Province, Municipalities, and CAs for flooding preparedness should be explored through the PEOC. The Centre could explore opportunities for greater coordination with CAs (e.g., flood scenario training with Municipalities, networking with Community Emergency Management Coordinators and PEOC field officers, inclusion in PEOC Weather Briefing meetings during severe weather forecasts, etc.). The Province (or PEOC) should make resources available to support the centralization of data sets critical to responding to flooding emergencies (e.g., location of critical infrastructure, flood plain maps, etc.).

To empower and support members of the public to safely navigate emergency situations such as flooding events, the Province should consider additional opportunities to disseminate information to the public. Consideration could be given to enhancing the Alert Ready system to allow greater customization to target specific areas. An example could be using the 'Flash Flood' category when ECCC issues a Rainfall Warning alert for amounts greater than 80-100 mm per hour. Such enhancements would improve warning time for the public and improve public safety practices during severe weather scenarios. Additionally, to increase public knowledge of ongoing emergencies, the Province could consider the development of a public viewing platform which aggregates information from emergency response and preparedness agencies about ongoing emergencies. Information from existing provincial tools, such as the Surface Water Monitoring Centre's flood and low water conditions maps, could be incorporated to facilitate a one-window approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act". Conservation Ontario recognizes the importance of collaboration and coordination during natural hazard emergencies to support a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario. The recommendations in this letter support an informed public during emergency situations and promote information and resource sharing amongst all agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response. Please contact the undersigned should this letter require any clarification.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Fischer

Nicholas Fischer

Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
www.conservationontario.ca



Submitted by email: DOPSreviewSDC@ontario.ca

August 29, 2024

Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on "Improving Accessible Built Environment Standards"

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Improving Accessible Built Environment Standards" consultation. Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit comments submitted by individual CAs.

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities collectively own and operate over 500 Conservation Areas with a total area of 150,000 hectares, making CAs one of the largest property owners in the province. Over 300 Conservation Areas are open to the public, containing more than 3,400 km of trails. Conservation Areas contain a variety of permanent Interpretive Centres, Seasonal Centres, and many interpretive trails and heritage features. These areas play a key role in Ontario by protecting the environment while providing access to nature for over 10 million Ontarians annually.

Conservation Authorities are supportive of the proposed long-term objectives of the "design of public space standards" (the "Standards") to remove and prevent barriers to accessibility and provide obligated organizations with the information and resources to design, construct and renovate accessible spaces. If adopted, the Committee's recommendations must be supported by dedicated funding for obligated organizations (CAs, Municipalities, etc.), particularly for those with immediate or short-term implementation timelines. The recommendation to develop a new funding grant for small businesses to support necessary retrofits is welcome. Eligibility for such grants should be extended to larger organizations with limited capital budgets and resources to support necessary retrofits.

In addition to financial resources, training and educational materials on the Standards should be available from the Province to all obligated organizations, including CAs. The Committee's review outlined the need for ongoing education to stay up to date with current accessibility requirements, with recommendations including education and training of select individuals (e.g., officials / inspectors). Ongoing education and training opportunities ensures all obligated organizations maintain a current understanding of the Standards, and can provide a venue for sharing information and best practices.

As the Committee reviews feedback on these initial recommendations, consideration should be given to the range of environments in which the Standards apply. For instance, the current Standards provide an exception for “wilderness trails” from the requirements for public recreational trails and beach access routes. Conservation Areas host active and passive recreational opportunities, which may include access to “wilderness trails”. In many cases, CAs have acquired lands in areas identified as hazardous due to natural processes (e.g., river and stream valleys, floodplains, etc.). Consideration should be given to clarifying existing or creating additional exceptions related to construction and maintenance works in such areas (e.g., where it is not feasible to construct or maintain the required infrastructure without creating additional natural hazards). The general exceptions provided under s. 80.15 of O.Reg. 191/11 (“*not practicable to comply*” and “*adversely affect...ecological integrity*”) provide a level of flexibility to address these circumstances, however, the general exceptions should include where the regulatory requirements would create additional risk due to natural hazards. Accessibility of the built environment must be coupled with appropriate measures to minimize potential impacts of hazardous natural areas.

Detailed comments on the 2023 initial recommendations are provided in Attachment 1 to this letter. Conservation Ontario appreciates the opportunity to review these initial recommendations, and looks forward to future consultation opportunities regarding improvements to accessible built environment standards in Ontario. Please contact the undersigned at nfischer@conservationontario.ca or 905-895-0716 should this letter require any clarification.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Fischer

Nicholas Fischer
Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs 1

Attachment

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
www.conservationontario.ca

Attachment 1: Conservation Ontario’s Detailed Comments on “Improving Accessible Built Environment Standards – 2023 Initial Recommendations Report”

Recommendations	Conservation Ontario’s Detailed Comments
<p>Recommendation 8: maximum length and rise of ramps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of maximum slope requirements in the Standards and Ontario Building Code (OBC) would provide regulatory consistency and would assist with the hiring of qualified contractors. Current requirements for maximum slope of ramps varies (e.g., 1:10 for recreational trails and beach access routes, 1:15 for exterior paths of travel, and a maximum of 1:12 under the OBC for ramps on barrier free path of travel). • The Committee’s proposal to establish a maximum length and rise of ramps for all ramps in the design of public spaces and Ontario Building Code is a welcome addition.
<p>Recommendation 10: bilingual signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification is required on the types of exterior signage requiring braille (e.g., trailhead or wayfinding signage). Application of braille on all exterior signage is not practical in all instances. Several Conservation Authorities have implemented alternatives to traditional signage (e.g., application-based e-readers) to provide various accessible avenues for individuals to experience their Conservation Areas.
<p>Recommendation 15: amended definitions for trails and sidewalks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Ontario is supportive of clarifying definitions of “sidewalk”, “multi-use trail” and “exterior path of travel”. Where possible, the Committee should consider aligning definitions (“multi-use path”, “active transportation path”, etc.) with the Ontario Traffic Manual – 18 and Bikeways Design Manual). Trail organizations such as Conservation Authorities should be contacted to assist in developing consistent trail typology for the Standards. • Conservation Authority trails will generally fall into the category of “recreational trail” or “wilderness trail”, and as such, the recommended 5% slope maximum requirement would not apply in most circumstances. However, clarification is requested on how the proposed maximum for other exterior paths of travel is to be measured in the absence of defined “beginning” and “end” points (e.g., compared to that of a ramp). Defined parameters on how to calculate this would greatly assist obligated organizations.
<p>Recommendation 16: consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Ontario appreciates the Committee’s proposal to create guidance material supporting consultation for all areas of the Standards. It is understood that for the purpose of constructing new or redeveloping existing recreational trails,

Recommendations	Conservation Ontario's Detailed Comments
	<p>obligated organizations must consult with the public and persons with disabilities prior to undertaking works. For greater certainty, O. Reg. 191/11 defines “redeveloped” as “planned significant alterations...[that] does not include maintenance activities, environmental mitigation or environmental restoration”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility in the requirement to consult is necessary for organizations such as CAs with limited capacity. Conservation Area users range from local residents to tourists; therefore, establishing the number and diversity of end-users consulted via percentage of impacted community would be complex. Under the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>, CAs have a regulatory requirement to consult with stakeholders and the public on strategy documents associated with Conservation Areas. Flexibility should be provided to allow CAs to undertake a combined approach (i.e., incorporate consultations related to the Standards with <i>Conservation Authority Act</i> consultations). • When constructing new trails or undertaking significant alterations, public consultation could be achieved by consulting with an established municipal accessibility advisory committee. Such an approach would help streamline and standardize consultation requirements across the province.
<p>Recommendation 18: distances between rest areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommends that rest areas be provided every 30 m along a path of travel, unless not feasible, and that the Province develop a list of exceptions where organizations are not required to provide a rest area every 30m. The proposed 30 m distance will not be feasible for all recreational trails, particularly for those several kilometers in length. The length of the trail should be considered when determining the amount and proximity of rest areas. For obligated organizations, an alternative could be to develop public informational resources identifying trails and beaches that are equipped with rest areas / other accessibility features. • Conservation Ontario would be pleased to further discuss exceptions where organizations would not be obligated to include a rest area every 30m.
<p>Recommendation 22: general requirement public use eating areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification is needed on the proposed requirement for larger obligated organizations to consult on new or redeveloped public use eating areas. Flexibility will be necessary to implement this requirement (e.g., consultation may not be reasonable when adding picnic benches to a field in a park).

Recommendations	Conservation Ontario's Detailed Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification is required on the proposed requirement for obligated organizations to monitor to ensure accessibility is maintained (e.g., when tables are moved to an inaccessible area). Additional details on the intended frequency of monitoring are required (e.g., a monitoring schedule vs constant monitoring). Constant monitoring is not feasible at unstaffed, passive use Conservation Areas. The requirement for monitoring of a facility should also be tied to its intended use and time of year (e.g., staffed accessible conservation areas as compared to passive recreational opportunities). • Further to comments above regarding rest areas, obligated organizations may elect to develop informational resources for the public to identify public use eating areas and applicable accessibility features in public spaces.
<i>Recommendation 25: improving accessibility design requirements for outdoor play spaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification is required for what information is required on signage at access points to outdoor play spaces.
<i>Recommendation 27: expand requirements to small organizations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee is proposing a retroactivity requirement for small organizations previously exempt from “exterior paths of travel” requirements. Under O. Reg. 191/11, these requirements currently apply to newly constructed or redeveloped exterior paths of travel that are constructed for pedestrian travel and do not provide a recreational experience (e.g., outdoor sidewalks and walkways). Clarification on the intent of this recommendation is required (i.e., would all “newly constructed” paths of travel completed in the past now be required to meet the exterior paths of travel requirements within five years of the regulation being adopted?)
<i>Recommendation 29: consideration of bridges as paths of travel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum accessibility requirements for bridges should consider the intent and purpose of the bridge. Not all bridges that are open to the public were built primarily for public access (e.g., those part of a dam structure) and accessibility requirements should be linked to the type of pathway on either side of the bridge (e.g., exterior paths of travel vs. recreational or wilderness trails).
<i>Recommendation 31: pathways to accessible areas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendation to require the design and construction of connections between accessible spaces to be continuous, firm and solid with no barriers to access may require flexibility to implement. Recognition should be provided for existing grades

Recommendations	Conservation Ontario's Detailed Comments
	and space limitations, especially in natural areas (e.g., a Conservation Area pathway between a parking area and an outdoor eating area in an otherwise natural environment).
Recommendation 32: temporary obstructions to exterior paths of travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendation to maintain accessible paths of travel during temporary obstructions should be flexible to allow for reasonable application (e.g., where the path of travel leads to a facility that is otherwise inaccessible, such as seasonal closures of Conservation Area facilities).
Recommendation 38: lighting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring a safe and properly illuminated path of travel is supported. It is acknowledged that these proposed requirements would apply only to exterior paths of travel (i.e., not recreational or wilderness paths / trails). Any lighting requirements should consider the location and use of the path of travel (e.g., environmentally sensitive areas only open from dawn to dusk).
Recommendation 46: accessibility of parking pay stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification is required on the proposal for providing “multiple automated kiosks based on size of parking facility”.
Recommendation 52: increased parking requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive of the change to use a static percentage for accessible parking within parking lots, where this factor would not result in decreased accessible parking spaces based on other applicable criteria which may supersede (i.e., the greater of the two instances shall apply).
Recommendation 53: enhanced parking requirements for specific sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive of the Province developing a detailed list of “essential service” categories for inclusion in the Standards. Consideration should be given to the number of accessible parking spaces based on the purpose of the parking lot (e.g., a general parking lot vs. parking for a specific feature such as a wilderness trail trailhead).
Recommendation 67: authoritative guidance for obtaining services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive of the recommendation for the Province to develop comprehensive guidance in collaboration with accessibility stakeholders and obligated organizations (e.g., Conservation Authorities).
Recommendation 68: provision of assistive listening devices for obtaining services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexibility to implement these recommendations will be necessary, for example, where there are connectivity limitations (e.g., Wi-Fi) at remote locations.
Recommendation 70: language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “intends to maintain” language should be retained, particularly for organizations with large properties that cannot

Recommendations	Conservation Ontario's Detailed Comments
<i>around intent to maintain</i>	be continuously monitored. For instance, pathways created by members of the public (“desired paths”), or routes established during temporary disruptions may not be maintained by the obligated organization past their intended use period.
Recommendation 73: inclusion of diagrams in the standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive of the recommendation for the Standards to include diagrams to clearly demonstrate technical standards. These diagrams will be a helpful resource for obligated organizations such as Conservation Authorities.
Recommendation 122: material alteration requires compliance with barrier-free standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further discussion is required on this recommendation. The Committee recommends that if a material alteration or repair to a building in one area is undertaken to make it accessible, then full application of section 3.8 of the OBC (Barrier Free Design) is required to remove all barriers to accessibility. This could result in project delays if a change to one area of a building/structure would then result in the entire building needing to comply with new codes and standards. Conservation Authorities are not-for-profit organizations, and as such may have limited abilities to make all necessary repairs or alterations at a given time.
Recommendation 124: retroactive washroom requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility should be built into the proposed requirement to retroactively install accessible features in washrooms. Obligated organizations may not have the ability to implement all proposed accessible features for all washrooms, particularly those where access to power and plumbing is limited. An incremental approach to improving accessibility for such facilities may be required.
Recommendation 126: resources for retrofits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive of the proposal for the Province to develop a new funding grant to support small businesses to allow for retrofits to occur in a timely manner. • The Committee’s recommendation is that the funding grant be “one-time funding of up to \$100,000 per location”. Consideration should be given to amending the proposed location-based eligibility requirements, specifically for locations with multiple buildings/facilities requiring retrofit. • In addition to small organizations, the Province should consider additional funding opportunities for larger organizations with limited capital budgets and resources.

From: [Stork, Heather](#)
To: [Tim Byrne](#)
Cc: [Guthrie, Janice \(She/Her\)](#); [Ardevini, Tony](#); [Soave, David](#); [Vlachodimos, Steve](#)
Subject: 2025 Budget Request
Date: July 31, 2024 9:13:50 AM
Attachments: [ERCA Guidelines Letter.pdf](#)
[2025 Essex Region Conservation Authority.docx](#)

You don't often get email from hstork@citywindsor.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is the letter regarding the City of Windsor's annual budget development process and your 2025 budget request. Please note that we are now requesting your organization's 2023 Year End Variance along with a 2024 Projected Year End Variance be included with your submission.

As in previous years, attached is a template to assist you with completing the requirements stated in the letter.

Please forward your written submissions by Friday, September 6, 2024 and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you.

Heather Stork | Senior Financial Budget Analyst & System Administrator



Corporate Services | Financial Planning Department
350 City Hall Square West | Suite 410 | Windsor, ON | N9A 6S1
(519) 255-6100 ext 6314
www.citywindsor.ca

July 29, 2024

Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Ave. W.
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Dear Mr. Byrne,

The Corporation of the City of Windsor has commenced its annual budget development process and is asking that you provide your 2025 budget request. As in prior years, City Administration has endeavoured to develop a budget, which minimizes an increase to the current tax levy requirement. In order to assist the City of Windsor in this effort, we ask that your 2025 budget request from the City of Windsor for the next fiscal year be maintained at a level that is no greater than your approved 2024 amount. Should an increase be identified, please provide specific details as to the nature of the increase and related impact on your budget request including any cost increase mitigation measures that may be considered.

2025 Request

All external City funded Agencies, Boards and Committees are being asked to submit the following information:

A. Organizational Overview

1. Your organization's mission statement
2. A brief description of your organization (1 to 2 paragraphs)
3. Organization chart (if applicable)

B. Budget Detail & Request

1. 2023 Approved Budget (by Expenditure & Revenue Accounts)
2. 2023 Year End Variance
3. 2024 Approved Budget (by Expenditure & Revenue Accounts)
4. 2024 Projected Year End Variance
5. 2025 Budget (by Expenditure & Revenue Accounts)
6. 2025 Budget Request from the City of Windsor

.../2

C. Budget Highlights

1. 2024 Accomplishments
2. 2025 Initiatives
3. 2025 Cost Drivers
4. 2025 Mitigating Measurers
5. Disclosure of any accumulated surplus funds (including reserves) arising from the prior or previous years.

D. Audited Financial Statements (if applicable)

1. 2024 Audited Financial Statements
2. 2024 Annual Report (if applicable)

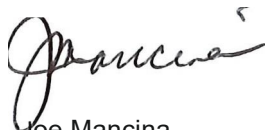
A template will be forwarded to you as in previous years to assist in completing the above requirements. Also, City of Windsor support staff within the Finance Department are available to assist you in this process. Please work with the individual listed below if you have any questions or concerns regarding your 2025 budget request.

Heather Stork
Senior Financial Budget Analyst & System Administrator
(519) 255- 6100 ext. 6314

Please forward your written submissions to Heather Stork, Senior Financial Budget Analyst & System Administrator, at hstork@citywindsor.ca by **Friday, September 6, 2024**. If your budget requires board approval, please forward your submission with your preliminary requirements and indicate when you expect to have the budget approved by your board.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Janice Guthrie, City Treasurer, at (519) 255-6100 ext. 6271 or myself at (519) 255-6100 ext. 6311.

Sincerely,



Joe Mancina,
Chief Administrative Officer

/sp

cc: Janice Guthrie, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer
Tony Ardivini, Deputy Treasurer- Financial Planning
Steve Vlachodimos, City Clerk
David Soave, Manager, Strategic Operating Budget Development & Control
Heather Stork, Senior Financial Budget Analyst & System Administrator