

Jenna Leifso

From: Janice Hagan <j.hagan@SVCA.ON.CA>
Sent: May-08-19 11:25 AM
To: Annilene McRobb DeputyClerkMinto; Brian Tocheri (Hanover); Carol Watson (Howick); David Milliner (Southgate); David Smith (Saugeen Shores); Jenna Leifso; Emily Dance (Huron-Kinloss); Fiona Hamilton BrocktonClerk; JoAnne Hyde (Southgate); Karen Wallace (Wellington-North); Laura Johnston (West Grey); Leanne Martin (South Bruce); Linda White (Saugeen Shores); Mark Turner (West Grey); Mary Rose Walden, CAO Huron-Kinloss; Michael Givens (Wellington-North); Nancy Michie (Morris-Turnbery); Patty Sinnamon (Chatsworth); Peggy Rouse - Arran-ElderslieClerk; Raylene Martell (Grey Highlands); Rob Adams (Grey Highlands); Sharon Chambers; Sonya Watson (Brockton)
Cc: Barbara Dobrean (890520); Bill Stewart; Cheryl Grace - Saugeen Shores; Christine Robinson - WestGrey; Dan Gieruszak - Brockton; Diana Rae - Chatsworth; Don Murray - HuronKinloss; Mark Davis (890540); Mark Goetz - SBruce_Howick_MTurnberry; Maureen Couture; Mike Myatt - Saugeen Shores ; Paul Allen - Grey Highlands; Steve McCabe (890500); Sue Paterson (890460); Tom Hutchinson -WestGrey
Subject: Provincial Client Service & Streamlining Initiative and Provincial Funding Cuts
Attachments: CAO_CoverLetter.pdf; 7b_ProvincialGrantReductionReport.pdf; 7a_Client service & streamlining report May 2019.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Municipal CAOs and Clerks,

Please see the attached correspondence from Wayne Brohman, GM/S-T, and 2 reports discussed at yesterday's Authority meeting. If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Wayne at w.brohman@svca.on.ca.

Regards,

~Janice



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Municipal CAOs and Clerks

May 8, 2019

Re: Provincial Client Service and Streamlining Initiative and Provincial Funding Cuts

At yesterday's Saugeen Conservation Authority meeting two reports with respect to Provincial undertakings were discussed by the Authority Members. The Province has very recently announced several actions that will affect Conservation Authorities throughout Ontario with more changes likely to come. The Authority asked me to share the two attached reports with our watershed partner municipalities to keep them informed of these changes. We will endeavor to keep you informed of future proposed changes.

Authority members endorsed the three goals indicated in the Provincial Client Service and Streamlining Initiative.

Watershed municipalities should be aware that the provincial downloading may lead to 2020 budget implications for watershed municipalities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or your Authority representative.

Regards,

Wayne Brohman
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Saugeen Conservation



Watershed Member Municipalities

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington North, Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey



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Report to: Authority Members, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

From: Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: May 7, 2019

Subject: Provincial Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

Background: The Province has indicated a priority to increase the housing supply, particularly in current and proposed high growth areas. A review is underway involving Conservation Authorities with CAs being asked to look at a client service and streamlining initiative. Three specific solutions for review are:

1. Improve service and accountability
2. Increase speed of approvals
3. Reduce red tape

These three solutions are to be considered in the context of supporting the provincial government's objective not to jeopardize public health and safety or the environment.

Conservation Ontario (CO): At the April 1, 2019 CO council meeting the council passed a resolution in support of the above noted three solutions. In addition, a Client Service and Streamlining Initiative Steering Committee was formed. The resolution also requested that all CA Boards endorse a commitment to pursue streamlining and client service measures in order to contribute to achieving the provincial priorities.

Motion: CO provided the following suggested wording for the Authority motion:

WHEREAS the provincial government intends to increase the supply of housing and streamline the land use planning and development approval process to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities play an important role in the planning and development review process with respect to watershed protection and hazard lands; and

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities support and can help deliver the Government's objective not to jeopardize public health and safety or the environment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Authority endorse the three key solutions developed by the Conservation Ontario working group: to improve client service and accountability; increase speed of approvals; and, reduce "red tape" and regulatory burden; and further

THAT staff be directed to work with Conservation Ontario and our clients to identify additional improvements.



Watershed Member Municipalities

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Report to: Authority Members, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

From: Wayne Brohman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: May 7, 2019

Subject: Provincial Grant Reduction

Background: For the past 22 years SVCA has received an annual grant from MNRF in the amount of \$157,669. The purpose of the grant funds is to cover maintenance costs for flood and erosion control structures and to cover costs for flood forecasting and warning. The other Conservation Authorities get similar grants in varying amounts for the same purposes.

For SVCA the maintenance costs for flood and erosion control structures relate to the dykes in Walkerton and Paisley, the dams in Durham and smaller control structures in Neustadt, Kincardine, Mount Forest, Southampton, Pinkerton and Inverhuron. The types of maintenance include:

- Grass cutting on the dykes
- Inspections of the structures
- Cleaning out the outflow channels, stormwater outlet pipes and culverts
- Tree removal
- Taking boards and stop logs in and out of the dams
- Repairing erosion control works

Flood monitoring and flood warning requires the operation and maintenance of numerous river flow and weather gauges throughout the watershed as well as a flood forecasting system software.

In 2018 the \$157,000 (rounded) was allocated as follows:

Flood Warning	\$107,000
Flood & Erosion Control Structures	\$ 50,000

On April 12th SVCA received notification from MNRF that the annual grant would be reduced to \$81,396 which represents a reduction of \$76,273.



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Special Levy: For many years, until 2012, the municipalities that directly benefited from the flood and erosion control structures were invoiced for 50% of the annual maintenance costs for the structures in their municipality. The Ontario grant covered the other 50%. In 2012 that ratio was changed to 60/40. For instance, the Municipality of Arran Elderslie is invoiced annually for 60% of the costs to maintain the Paisley dykes which are located in Arran Elderslie. Similarly, the Municipality of Brockton is invoiced for 60% of the costs to maintain the Walkerton dyke. The change was made because the amount of the unchanged Ontario grant no longer covered half the costs. So, in 2018, the \$50,000 grant funding noted above was shared amongst the various benefitting municipalities to partially offset the total costs of maintaining the various structures in their municipalities.

2019 Budget Effect: As was indicated in note #4 on page one of the 2019 Budget Notes, the 2019 budget assumed that SVCA would receive the same \$157,669 MNRF grant that had been received in prior years. At the time of the budget and until SVCA was notified of the grant reduction, there had been no indication that the annual grant would be reduced. A grant increase wasn't expected but nor was a significant reduction at the time the budget was prepared.

The \$76,000 funding shortfall needs to come from somewhere in 2019. Here are some possibilities:

1. Increase the special levy to 80/20 to recover the \$25,000 grant reduction for the flood/erosion structure maintenance costs. This could be a consideration for 2020 but I don't recommend it for 2019. The affected municipalities will have already set their budgets for this year, so it seems unfair to impose this late change on them now.
2. It is possible that there will be a modest surplus in the general levy programs that would be enough to cover at least a portion of the \$76,000.
3. Funds could be allocated from the working capital reserve which has a balance of \$1.4 million. This would be a dangerous path to follow for future years, but I suggest it would be tolerable for one year.
4. Funds could be allocated from other reserves such as Property Acquisition (\$156k), Land Management (\$79k), Wetland Acquisition (\$54k). This would not be a suggested solution to be repeated in subsequent years.

My recommendation is to look at options 2 through 4, or a combination of those, at the end of the year to offset the \$76,000 grant shortfall. Additional options will be up for consideration for the 2020 budget.