



Maitland Valley CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Work Plan Summary 2018 - 2020

Maitland Conservation has developed a three-year Work Plan to:

- Focus limited resources on doing core services very well,
- Help member municipalities and landowners identify appropriate measures to deal with the increasing potential for flooding, erosion, and drought due to a rapidly changing climate,
- Identify needed improvements and maintenance on infrastructure, equipment, and services.

Priorities over the next three years:

- 1) To strengthen the capacity of Flood and Erosion Safety Services: This will help municipalities reduce the potential for damage to development and land in areas prone to flooding and erosion.
- 2) To strengthen Watershed Stewardship Services: This will help member municipalities and landowners to develop rural stormwater management systems and soil and water conservation systems. This will also help to protect municipal outlet drainage systems and soil and water resources.
- 3) To stabilize our financial base to:
 - a) ensure Flood and Erosion Safety Services and Watershed Stewardship Services have adequate resources; and
 - b) sustain the equipment and infrastructure required to provide core services support.

Flood and Erosion Safety Services

Services we must provide:

- 1) Information for municipalities on areas that are at risk of damage, loss of life, and social disruption due to flooding. This includes:
 - maintaining the flood forecasting system and developing flood progression mapping
 - providing flood emergency planning support
 - and providing technical expertise to review development proposals in flood prone areas.

Why? Several thousand people live and work in flood-prone areas across the watershed. This represents \$176 million worth of tax assessment.

- 2) Information for municipalities on areas at risk from bluff and gully erosion along the Lake Huron shoreline. This includes erosion risk mapping, and technical support for reviewing development proposals in hazard areas.

Why? Development and land worth \$366 million are at risk from shoreline bluff erosion and 2,000 acres of land worth \$90 million is at risk from gully erosion.

Priorities:

- Harriston Hydrology Project - creation of new floodplain mapping based on the recently updated hydrology model.
- Listowel and Lucknow Hydrology Projects - stream flow data will be collected over the next 3 years and used to update the hydrology models for these areas.
- Shoreline bluff and gully erosion risk mapping updates.



Ash tree removal at Wawanosh Park Conservation Area, May, 2017



Garvey-Glenn grassed waterway under high flows, June 2017



Stabilizing washed out berm at Gorrie Conservation Area, Sept. 2017

Watershed Stewardship Services

Services we must provide:

- 1) Technical expertise and outreach and education related to rural stormwater management, reforestation and soil health.
- 2) Assist municipalities and rural landowners to develop appropriate rural stormwater management systems that include soil health. Encourage the incorporation of these measures into municipal drainage projects. Restore floodplain lands with permanent hay or natural cover. This will help to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and ensure that infrastructure is maintained and protected for the future.

Why? The watershed contains 470,000 acres of prime agricultural land that is worth \$4.7 billion. In addition, there are over 50,000 acres of marginal farmland in production across the watershed.

Priority:

To improve our effectiveness at encouraging conservation practices by building relationships with landowners through long term stewardship programs supported by experienced staff.

Key Demonstration Projects:

Provide landowner technical support, project evaluation and agency coordination for:

- Garvey-Glenn Watershed Restoration Project
- Scott Municipal Drain Watershed Restoration Project
- Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project
- North Maitland Watershed Restoration Project

Conservation Areas

Service we should provide:

- 1) Management of our properties should showcase good examples of the conservation of soil, forests, and floodplains.

Why? Maitland Conservation owns 28 Conservation Areas encompassing over 4,600 acres of land. These properties include floodplains, wetlands, upland forests, and river valley lands.

Priorities:

- Undertake a process to assess options for the repair, replacement or decommissioning of the Gorrie Dam
- Tree planting on marginal agricultural lands located adjacent to forested areas
- Naturalization of Administration Centre grounds to reduce maintenance costs
- Mill buildings in Brussels and Gorrie - development of an agreement with the Maitland Mills Project Steering Committee. This will include investigating the options of leasing, severing and selling the buildings to the committee.
- Assess options for the use of the Wawanosh Nature Centre building for conservation education programs and storage
- Ensure the safe use of conservation lands through the removal of hazardous trees and infrastructure replacement (boardwalks, bridges, signs)

Corporate Services

Service we must provide:

- 1) Governance and leadership of Maitland Conservation - Directors are the link between Maitland Conservation and member municipalities.

Priorities:

- Develop a stable funding base for the MVCA to assist member municipalities and landowners in developing a more resilient and prosperous watershed
- Limit levy increases to between \$55,000 and \$58,000 per year for the next three years
- Ensure that services are restructured to achieve the outcomes identified in the 2018-2020 Work Plan
- Develop stronger partnerships with counties and municipalities that have the greatest potential for flood and erosion damage and/or have lands with greatest rural stormwater management and soil and water conservation needs.

