February 4, 2020
County of Leeds and Grenville Committee of the Whole

Potential Changes to Conservation Authorities
Your Local Conservation Partners

Map of Your Local Conservation Partners: City of Ottawa, County of Lanark, County of Frontenac, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.
Our Mandate

Purpose of a Conservation Authority:
“to provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources”

Conservation Authorities Act, Sec. 20(1)

**Provincial Responsibilities**
Must provide programs & services that are required by regulation

**Service Delivery for Municipalities**
May provide municipal programs & services on behalf of a municipality under a MOU

**Local Resource Management**
May provide other programs & services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources

Conservation Authorities Act, Sec. 21.1
Our Current Programs and Services

On Behalf of the Province (mandated)
- Plan review (natural hazards)
- Section 28 development regulation
- Flood forecasting and warning
- Low water response
- Drinking water source protection

On Behalf of Municipalities (under MOU)
- Plan review (natural heritage, hydrogeology, stormwater management)
- Septic inspection & re-inspection
- Source water protection (Part IV implementation)
- Woodlot management

Local Watershed Management (Board directed)
- Environmental monitoring & reporting
- Flood and erosion control structures
- Stewardship (tree planting, clean water grants, shoreline naturalization, land acquisition, habitat enhancement)
- Conservation areas
- Conservation education

The Conservation Authority Model
Municipalities making local science-based decisions at a watershed scale to protect people and property from natural hazards and conserve natural resources for environmental, social and economic benefit
Proposed Legislative Changes Awaiting Regulations

Our Regulatory Work under Section 28 (MNRF)

- New or updated definitions for key regulatory terms
- Reduction of regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed
- Exempting low-risk development activities from requiring a permit

The Scope of our Programs and Services (MECP)

- Defining that CAs shall provide programs and services related to:
  - Risk of natural hazards
  - Conservation & management of CA lands
  - Drinking water source protection
- Requiring conservation authorities to enter into agreements with municipalities for the delivery of all other programs and services that are supported by municipal levy
Feedback to the Province

Regulatory Work under Section 28
It is important that municipalities and conservation authorities have input into:

- New or updated definitions for key regulatory terms
- Changes to the scope of wetland regulations
- The type of development that may no longer require a CA permit

Scope of Programs and Services
- Requiring MOUs with each municipality is contrary to watershed scale decision-making
- MOUs could be an administrative burden for municipalities and CAs
- If required, should consider administering MOUs at the County level for efficiency and consistency
- CA programs are designed to work together to achieve watershed management

AMO Feedback
- AMO wants to be involved in the drafting of new or amended regulations under the CA Act
- AMO wants an adequate transition period for municipalities and CAs to implement changes
Municipalities
• Participate in MECP consultation sessions – February 7 in Peterborough
• Consider passing a Council resolution in support of local Conservation Authorities
• Submit comments when draft regulations are posted for consultation on ERO

Conservation Authorities
• Continue delivering locally developed watershed-based programs for 2020
• Continue implementing improvements to development review services (improve customer service and efficiencies in approvals process)
• Would like to help Province implement Flood Advisor’s recommendations
• Would like to help Province draft CA Act regulations
• Will participate in provincial consultations
Could Reshape Natural Hazard Work
- Floodplain Mapping
- Flood Forecasting & Warning
- Plan Review & Regulations
- Water Control Infrastructure
- Protection of Green Infrastructure

Could Reshape Programs & Administration
- Define programs and services
- Require MOUs for levy programs
- Revise regulatory scope / tools
- Define fees

Revise Budgets & Workplans
- Develop transition plan
- Review programs and services
- Establish agreements for programs
- Adjust regulatory programs
- Revise fee schedules
Value of Conservation Authorities

Program Outcomes
• Reduced municipal liability
• Reduced infrastructure costs
• Increased watershed resiliency
• Sustainable economic growth
• Desirable communities

Delivery Partner of Choice
• Watershed knowledge & expertise
• Integrated development reviews
• Accessible staff
• Consistent program delivery
• Cost-effective shared services
• Cost recovery opportunities
• Roles complement municipal services

Locally Accountable and Transparent
• Municipally appointed Boards of Directors
• Budget process
• Audited Financial Statements
• Annual Reports
• Watershed Report Cards
• Ongoing program reviews and improvements
Your Conservation Partners

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