



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 3, 2022



Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held in person for Board of Directors members and designated, limited staff only.

**The public may view the meeting live on HCA's You Tube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation>**

- 1. Call to Order** – Santina Moccio
- 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Consent Items**
 - 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
 - 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – October 6, 2022
 - 5.3. Level Two Low Water Condition, declared as of October 19, 2022
 - 5.4. Email from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re. MNRF proposals in support of More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23, dated October 25, 2022
- 6. Foundation Briefing** Foundation Chair – Jennifer Stebbing
- 7. Member Briefing**
- 8. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 9. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board**
- 10. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums**

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 10.1. 2023 Operating Budget | – Scott Fleming |
| 10.2. Biodiversity Action Plan | – Mike Stone |
| 10.3. Request for Proposal – Saltfleet Conservation Area
Wetland Design (SC-5) | – Scott Peck |
| 10.4. Watershed Conditions Report | – Jonathan Bastien |
| 10.5. Specific Agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife
and Habitat Authority | – Gord Costie |
| 10.6. Conservation Areas Experiences Update | – Gord Costie |

11. New Business

12. In-Camera Items

13. Next Meeting – Thursday, December 1, 2022

14. Adjournment



Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer

**RECOMMENDED
& PREPARED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative
Officer/Director, Watershed Planning and Engineering

Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Planning,
Stewardship & Ecological Services

DATE: November 3, 2022

RE: Summary Enforcement Report
Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to
Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation 161/06

HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates of September 22, 2022 to October 21, 2022 are summarized in the following Summary Enforcement Report (SER-9/22).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Summary Enforcement Report SER-9/22 as information.

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS

October 21, 2022

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, November 03, 2022

The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 9/22

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
H/F,A/22/69	14-Sep-22	26-Sep-22	14		565 Aberdeen Ave Lot 21, Concession 4 Hamilton	Alteration of a watercourse consisting of debris removal and channel construction in a regulated area on a tributary of Chedoke Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
F/F,C/22/67	28-Aug-22	07-Oct-22	17		Between 1209 and 1285 Brock Rd Lot 7, Concession 6 Flamborough	Removal and replacement of Bell Canada poles and the placement of conduit in a regulated area of Hayesland Christie Wetland Complex.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
SC/F,C/22/68	12-Sep-22	07-Oct-22	50		859 Hwy 8 Lot 11, Concession 2 Stoney Creek	Construction of a Two Storey Dwelling and Septic System in a regulated area of Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourse 7.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
H/F/22/64	18-Aug-22	07-Oct-22	52		Right-of-way between Garner Rd E and Iona Ave Lot 53, Concession 2, 3 Hamilton	Installation of Cathodic Protection along an existing pipeline in a regulated area of Chedoke Creek and Tiffany Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
SC/F,C,A/22/65	04-Aug-22	14-Oct-22	78		33 Windemere Rd Lot 2, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Construction of a single family dwelling and shore protection in a regulated area of Lake Ontario.	Approved subject to standard conditions.

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS

October 21, 2022

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, November 03, 2022

The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 9/22

SC/F,C,A/22/66	04-Aug-22	14-Oct-22	78		35 Windemere Rd Lot 2, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Construction of a single family dwelling and shore protection in a regulated area of Lake Ontario.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
A/F,C,A/22/47	05-May-22	14-Oct-22	86		Pt Lt 46, Con 2, Rousseaux St Lot 46, Concession 2 Ancaster	Rehabilitation of Bridge 294 Rousseaux Street in a regulated area of Ancaster Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
F/F,C,A/22/77	05-Oct-22	18-Oct-22	15		706 Hwy 8 Lot 22, 23, Concession 4 Flamborough	Construction of four (4) single detached dwellings on separate lots and all related site servicing and grading, in a regulated area of Spencer Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
SC/C/22/71	12-Aug-22	21-Oct-22	60		68 Seabreeze Cres Lot 9, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Construction of a two storey single family dwelling in a regulated area of Lake Ontario	Approved subject to standard conditions.

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

October 6, 2022

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, by an in-person and videoconference hybrid format and livestreamed via YouTube.

PRESENT: **Lloyd Ferguson – in the Chair**
 Dan Bowman Jim Cimba
 Susan Fielding (Webex) Cynthia Janzen
 Maria Topalovic

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair (Webex)

REGRETS: **Brad Clark, Tom Jackson, Santina Moccio, Esther Pauls,**
 Russ Powers

STAFF PRESENT: **Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Scott Fleming, Matt Hall, Bruce Harschnitz, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts**
Jonathan Bastien, Scott Peck, Elizabeth Reimer, Mike Stone
(Webex)

OTHERS: **Bhaskar Joshi (Webex)**

NOTE: For clarity, the minutes are reported in the original agenda order.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised that item 8.1 will need to be postponed to the following meeting. In addition, it was noted two in-camera items were to be added regarding one legal matter and one property matter.

BD12, 3098

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Section 28 Hearing

5.1. 62 Lake Avenue North, Stoney Creek - Permit Application No. SC/C/22/51

BD12, 3099

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the Board of Directors sit as the Hearing Board.

CARRIED

The hearing procedures were reviewed.

Elizabeth Reimer presented the staff report. Bhaskar Joshi presented on his own behalf. The applicant proposed development of a secondary dwelling unit in an existing single residence in a regulated area of Battlefield Creek. Staff were unable to support the application as the proposed development does not comply with HCA policy. HCA policies do not permit interior renovations to buildings in the floodplain that would increase the number of dwelling units in the building, as it would increase the number of households that are at risk of flooding. The applicant commented that he was unaware that the property is regulated for development by HCA at the time of purchase and has been working to create the apartment legally. He noted the house is on a hill and may not be subject to as significant flooding as other nearby properties.

BD12, 3100**MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic****THAT Hearing Board moves *in camera*.****CARRIED**

During the *in-camera* session, the hearing board deliberated on the application. A motion, BD12, 3101, was carried culminating in a decision.

BD12, 3102**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba****THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.****CARRIED**

The Chair announced the decision to issue the permit.

BD12, 3101**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba****THAT the application be approved as the risk to public safety is minor as set out in provincial policy. Subject to standard conditions and that the applicant enter into a save harmless agreement with HCA, its officers and directors, and that it be registered on title.****CARRIED**

6. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

The following consent items were adopted:

- 6.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 6.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – September 1, 2022

- 6.3. Approved August 18, 2022 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 6.4. Email from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry confirming receipt of HCA Application to Renew Exceptions for Chair and Vice-Chair Provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act, dated September 20, 2022

7. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

Donations

The Foundation received a total of **\$28,006** in donations from September 1st to September 30th, 2022. They break down as follows:

- \$20,417 to the Environmental Education Fund
- \$3,000 to our Benches Fund for a memorial bench to be dedicated in Dundas Valley
- \$2,040 to the Foundation's Area of Greatest Need Fund

The remaining \$2,549 was directed to various projects, including the Tribute Tree Fund, Dundas Valley Fund, and Westfield in support of the locomotive restoration. This brings the fiscal year-to-date fundraising total to **\$697,991**, which is 84% of the goal.

Fall Appeal

The Fall appeal will be mailed later this month. This appeal invites past donors and members of CAB as well as both HCA and Foundation Boards to make a gift to the Foundation's Area of Greatest Need Fund.

BD12, 3103

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

8. Member Briefing

8.1. Eramosa Karst Conservation Area Trail Guide Application

This item was postponed to a later date.

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

9.1. HCA Quarterly Report #2 to MNRF – O. Reg. 687/21

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the memorandum regarding the second quarterly report to the Ministry of the Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) on HCA's programs and services inventory required as a result of recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. The report outlines the consultation steps that have been undertaken to-date with the City of Hamilton and Township of Puslinch. To-date, the draft inventory has been well received and there have been no formal comments or concerns on the service areas and program areas included. The municipalities continue their internal reviews of the inventory. HCA staff have had informal discussions with City of Hamilton staff regarding Category 2 and 3 programs and services which will require (Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and agreements. Staff will continue to work toward finalizing the inventory and bringing forward agreements in an effort to execute MOUs in 2023.

BD12, 3104

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Quarterly Report #2 to MNRF – O. Reg. 687/21 be received.

CARRIED

10. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board

10.1. Budget and Administration Committee – September 15, 2022 (Recommendations)

10.1.1. BA 2236 2023 Capital Budget

Scott Fleming presented the 2023 Capital Budget. Funding for capital projects and major maintenance is requested from the City of Hamilton Public Works Department under their block funding program. HCA is requesting block funding of \$2 million dollars and additionally, will utilize \$300,000 from the HCA unplanned capital reserve for one project. HCA has held this block funding request at \$2M since 2009, despite inflation continuing to impact the purchasing power of these funds. The block funding request is divided between Special Projects and Major Maintenance. Special Projects are further broken down into four groups: Safety and Legislation, Revenue Increase / Cost Reduction, Maintenance of Viability, and Strategic Priorities. Details of specific projects were noted.

Board members suggested and discussed that the \$300,000.00 from reserve capital funds for the replacement of a retaining wall on the Ancaster Well site be added to the capital budget block funding request to the City of Hamilton for a total budget of \$2.3M.

BD12, 3105

MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the 2023 Capital Budget request as presented herein, be amended to add \$300,000.00 for the replacement of a retaining wall on the Ancaster Well site, and be approved and submitted to the City of Hamilton for consideration and be included in their block funding budget of 2023.

CARRIED

10.1.2. BA 2238 Administrative Bylaw review – Ability to Chair Hybrid Meetings

Lisa Burnside summarized a staff report to address a clause in HCA's Administrative By-law noting no person participating in a meeting electronically shall chair a meeting of the Board of Directors unless the meeting is held in its entirety by telephonic or electronic means. This section of the by-law had not been updated to reflect the evolution in technology in the main office auditorium that now provides for hybrid participation by all members. It was noted hybrid meetings provide greater accessibility.

BD12, 3106

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the B&A recommends to the Board of Directors that the HCA administrative bylaw be amended to permit any member of the Board of Directors or advisory committee participating electronically to Chair a hybrid meeting.

CARRIED

11. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

11.1. Valens Lake Campground Expansion Request for Proposal

Matt Hall presented a summary of the staff report advising of a number of reports, studies and plans required for a Site Plan Amendment application to the City of Hamilton to facilitate the campground expansion at Valens Lake CA. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was advertised to hire a multi-disciplinary planning firm to provide the necessary professional services to complete this work. A.J. Clarke & Associates Ltd. was the only company to express interest in the project; other companies contacted were unable to take on the project at this time. It was noted that A.J. Clarke is a well-known local planning, engineering and surveying firm. Wide-spread challenges obtaining multiple quotations and retaining consultants due to time and workload constraints were discussed.

BD12, 3107

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the Request for Proposal submitted by A.J. Clarke & Associates Ltd. For Site Plan Amendment Professional Services for Campground Expansion at Valens Lake Conservation Area; be approved for a total estimated cost of \$138,360.00 (before taxes).

CARRIED

Bhaskar Joshi entered the meeting.

11.2. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, noting there has been no recent significant watercourse or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. Current flows are at to slightly above recent base flow conditions, however average monthly flows have been significantly below the long-term average. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level is currently approximately 22cm below average for this time of year.

The Christie Lake water levels are well below the preferred summer operating levels. Water is being slowly released to maintain minimum flows for ecological health in Lower Spencer Creek. Staff continue to monitor and manage the levels and dam outflows. The Valens Lake water levels are slightly below preferred summer operating levels.

There are currently no significant rainfall events forecasted for the watershed for the next two weeks. No significant Lake Ontario flooding is expected.

The Hamilton Low Water Response Team declared a Level 1 Low Water Condition for the entire HCA watershed on July 28th. An updated drought assessment indicated that Level 1 or Level 2 Low Water Conditions could both be considered an appropriate overall characterization of the watershed. Therefore, HCA suggested deferring a decision on declaring Level 2 Low Water Conditions until the next scheduled assessment.

BD12, 3108

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

11.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord Costie provided a verbal update, highlighting the Conservation Authorities are anticipating and preparing for, heavy visitation this Thanksgiving weekend and Fall season. Both Dundas Valley and Christie Lake CA's are busy with visitors for the Fall colours. Tiffany Falls Conservation Area will also be reopening soon, following the construction along Wilson Street and improvements to the parking lot. The Devil's Punchbowl has also reopened. Fifty Point CA has begun to lift boats out of the water for the season. Valens Lake reported 161 campsite reservations for the Thanksgiving long weekend. Dundas Peak is sold out for the long weekend, and Webster Falls is also near sold out. The reservation system has been successful in managing visitation to the Greensville area. The Chair thanked staff for the preparations for the Ancaster Stroll event in the Dundas Valley.

BD12, 3109

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

THAT the verbal update on the Conservation Areas Experiences be received.

CARRIED

12. New Business

There was none.

13. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3110**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba****SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.

CARRIED

During the *in camera* session, two legal matters and one property matter were discussed.

13.1. Confidential Verbal Update – BD/Oct 01-2022

Legal Matter – follow up

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

13.2. Confidential Verbal Update – BD/Oct 02-2022

Legal Matter Follow Up

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

13.3. Confidential Verbal Update – BD/Oct 03-2022

Property Matter –

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3111**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic****SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.

CARRIED

Lloyd Ferguson announced this would be his last in person meeting before his retirement. He thanked the Board and staff for the privilege to Chair the Board of Directors for the past four years.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer

From: [Jaime Tellier](#)
To: [Brad Clark](#); [Cynthia Janzen](#); [Dan Bowman](#); [Esther Pauls](#); [James Cimba](#); [Lloyd Ferguson](#); [Maria Topalovic](#); [Russ Powers](#); [Santina Moccio](#); [Susan Fielding](#); [Tom Jackson](#)
Cc: [Lisa Burnside](#)
Subject: News Release and Fact Sheet regarding Declaration of Level 2 Low Water Conditions for the HCA watershed
Date: October 19, 2022 7:56:00 PM
Attachments: [Increased water conservation urged within the Hamilton Conservation Authority watershed.pdf](#)
[Level-2-Low-Water-Con-Factsheet.pdf](#)

To Board of Directors:

Due to worsening conditions, the Hamilton Low Water Response Team has now declared a Level 2 Low Water Condition for the entire HCA watershed.

Please see the attached media release and factsheet for detailed information. We will keep the Board of Directors updated as conditions warrant.

Thank you,

Jaime Tellier

Executive Assistant /
 Records Management Coordinator
 Hamilton Conservation Authority
 838 Mineral Springs Road, P.O. Box 81067
 Ancaster, ON L9G 4X1
Phone: 905-525-2181 Ext. 112
Email: Jaime.Tellier@conservationhamilton.ca



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**Hamilton
Conservation
Authority**

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

For Immediate Release: Thursday, October 20, 2022

Increased water conservation urged within the Hamilton Conservation Authority watershed

Due to worsening conditions, the Hamilton Low Water Response Team has now declared a Level 2 Low Water Condition for the entire HCA watershed. This includes Spencer Creek, Chedoke Creek, Redhill Creek, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek, Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, as well as all of their tributaries and other minor watercourses. The HCA watershed has been in a Level 1 Low Water Condition since July 28th, 2022.

The Hamilton Low Water Response Team is encouraging a 20 percent voluntary reduction in normal water use. This applies to all users of water supplied from watercourses, waterbodies, and groundwater sources within the HCA watershed.

Strategies for reducing water use can be found on the attached Level 2 Low Water Condition Factsheet. Reducing the use of these sources at this critical time will avoid more serious shortages in the watershed, and lessen the impact of reduced water availability on our environment.

Water users reliant on the municipal water system are asked to follow any active municipal water use bylaws.

A Low Water Condition is declared when precipitation amounts and/or streamflow rates fall below pre-determined thresholds, set by the provincial government under its Low Water Response Program.

A Level 2 Low Water Condition was declared as one-month and three-month precipitation totals were mostly below 60% of long-term averages, and 30-day average streamflows were mostly below 30% of the minimum average summer month flows.

Rainfall since April has been well below normal with extended dry periods, resulting in well below normal flows in area watercourses. Three-month precipitation totals (July 1-September 30) indicated Level 1 or Level 2 Low Water Conditions. Also, one-month precipitation totals (September 1 to 30) indicated Level 2 Low Water Conditions. In addition, 30-day average streamflows at the end of September indicated Level 3 Low Water Conditions at all three Spencer Creek stations, and Level 2 Low Water Conditions at the Ancaster Creek and Red Hill Creek stations.

The Hamilton Low Water Response Team is made up of water users in the watershed including: agricultural representatives, golf courses, nursery operators, quarry operations, and industrial users as well as provincial and municipal representatives. HCA staff act as co-chair for this team, and are responsible for regular evaluation of watershed conditions which provides evidence to support declaring low water conditions.

It is important that we all do our part to reduce water use within the watershed. In lieu of an open house, please contact Jonathan Bastien should you wish to discuss drought conditions or strategies for reducing water use

Media contact:

Jonathan Bastien, P. Eng.

Water Resources Engineer / Co-Chair - Hamilton Low Water Response Team

Phone: 905-525-2181, ext. 138

Email: Jonathan.Bastien@conservationhamilton.ca

This media release has been formatted to be an accessible document. Should you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Hamilton Conservation Authority at 905-525-2181 and we will be happy to assist you.

P.O Box 81067, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 4X1 | P: 905-525-2181

nature@conservationhamilton.ca | www.conservationhamilton.ca

LEVEL 2 Low Water Condition Factsheet

Level 2 Low Water Condition Declared as of October 20, 2022

What are Low Water Condition Declarations

A Low Water condition is declared when precipitation amounts and/or streamflow rates fall below pre-determined thresholds.

These thresholds are set by the provincial government in its Low Water Response Program. Low Water condition levels range from Level I to Level III, representing progressively more severe water supply shortages and restrictions on water use.

HCA and the Hamilton Low Water Response Team are responsible for evaluating watershed conditions and declaring Low Water conditions for the HCA watershed.

Current Declaration

The HCA watershed has been in a Level 1 Low Water Condition since July 28th, 2022. A Level 2 Low Water Condition has now been declared for the entire HCA watershed. This includes Spencer Creek, Chedoke Creek, Redhill Creek, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek, Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, as well as all of their tributaries and other minor watercourses.

Level 2 was declared as one-month and three-month precipitation totals were mostly below 60% of long-term averages, and 30-day average streamflows were mostly below 30% of the minimum average summer month flows.

Current Conditions

Three-month precipitation totals (July 1-September 30) indicated Level 1 or Level 2 Low Water Conditions. Also, one-month precipitation totals (September 1 to 30) indicated Level 2 Low Water Conditions.

In addition, 30-day average streamflows at the end of September indicated Level 3 Low Water Conditions at all three Spencer Creek stations, and Level 2 Low Water Conditions at the Ancaster Creek and Red Hill Creek stations.

Details of the Ontario Low Water Response Program are available at:
www.ontario.ca/page/low-water-response-program

What can you do to help?

At this time, the Hamilton Low Water Response Team is encouraging a 20 percent voluntary reduction in normal water use. This applies to all users of water supplied from watercourses, waterbodies and groundwater sources within the HCA watershed.

Reducing the use of these water sources at this critical time will avoid more serious shortages in the watershed, and lessen the impact of reduced water availability on our environment.

Water users reliant on the municipal water system are asked to follow any active municipal water use bylaws.

It's important we all do our part to reduce water use in our watershed.

At Home

- Follow local lawn watering restrictions in your area
- Water your gardens in the morning or evening rather than the heat of the day (where permitted)
- Use a broom to clean paved surfaces instead of water
- Install toilet dams
- Use rain barrels to water around the yard
- Repair leaky faucets
- Reduce non-essential water use (car washing, lawn watering)

Municipal Users

- Maintain but minimize municipal supply groundwater withdrawals
- Actively encourage compliance with outdoor water use by-laws.
- Implement outdoor water use bans where municipal supply is groundwater based
- Reduce water withdrawals for park and public lands irrigation by selective watering, scheduling withdrawals, and use of storage.

Golf Course Users

- Reduce water use on selected portions of the course
- Make use of water storage on the course
- Withdraw water more slowly over longer period of time (i.e. reduce pumping rate)
- Schedule surface water withdrawals with neighbouring golf courses.

Agricultural Users

- Eliminate non-essential water use
- Further reduce pumping rate, and make use of storage
- Irrigate dusk to dawn if possible
- Collectively co-ordinate surface water takings with other water takers

Aggregate Users

- Eliminate non-essential water use, including
- landscape watering and equipment washing
- Utilize dewatering effluent for storage, and make use of water storage on site
- Where practical, reduce below water table excavations of sand and gravel

Municipal, Golf Course, Agricultural and Aggregate Users should report actions taken to sector representative and Low Water Response Team

Want more information on Low Water Conditions?
Call 905-525-2181, ext. 138



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

From: [Jaime Tellier](#)
To: [Brad Clark](#); [Cynthia Janzen](#); [Dan Bowman](#); [Esther Pauls](#); [James Cimba](#); [Lloyd Ferguson](#); [Maria Topalovic](#); [Russ Powers](#); [Santina Moccio](#); [Susan Fielding](#); [Tom Jackson](#)
Cc: [Lisa Burnside](#)
Subject: FW: MNRF proposals in support of More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23
Date: October 27, 2022 10:37:00 AM
Attachments:

Sent on behalf of Lisa Burnside

To Board members,

On October 25, 2022, the government of Ontario introduced the [More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022](#), with the goal of facilitating the construction of 1.5 million new homes. The omnibus bill proposes amendments to multiple different acts. We have received the email below from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Staff have not had an opportunity to fully review what has just been released and we will be working over the next few weeks to better understand what the proposals on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) mean for us going forward.

At this time, I am able to provide a high level summary of the proposed changes that affect HCA through proposed legislative changes and regulatory proposals which include:

- Streamlining CA permits
- Focusing CA role in planning reviews
- Freezing CA fees related to planning and development proposals as well as for permits
- Identifying CA lands suitable for housing

There are multiple postings on the ERO in regard to the changes with the *More Homes Built Faster Act* to provide consultation over the next 30 – 66 days, depending on the posting. Staff will be working with Conservation Ontario to provide comment on relevant postings and will continue to review any further proposed amendments and regulations related to this initiative as they become available and will provide further updates to the Board of Directors accordingly. We will be looking to collaboratively engage in the process of the changes with Conservation Ontario, our participating municipalities and the Province going forward.

Sincerely,

Lisa Burnside CHRL
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Hamilton Conservation Authority
 838 Mineral Springs Road PO 81067 L9G 4X1
 Phone: 905-525-2181 x 126



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone The contents of this e-mail and any attachments are intended for the named recipient(s). This e-mail may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient(s), please notify the sender and permanently delete this message without reviewing, copying, forwarding, disclosing or otherwise using it or any part of it in any form whatsoever. Thank you.

From: Great Lakes and Water Policy Section (MNRF) <mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca>

Sent: October 25, 2022 4:54 PM

To: Great Lakes and Water Policy Section (MNRF) <mnrwaterpolicy@ontario.ca>

Subject: MNRF proposals in support of More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23

*** This message is being sent on behalf of Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry ***

October 25, 2022

Good afternoon,

On October 25, 2022, the government released More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23 that proposes bold and transformative action to get 1.5 million homes built over the next 10 years.

Details about the range of proposed measures in the government's plan can be found in the news release here: [Ontario Putting Home Ownership in Reach for More People | Ontario Newsroom](#).

More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23 proposes policies and tools that reflect recommendations from the [Housing Affordability Task Force Report](#), and builds on the [More Homes, More Choice Act](#) and the [More Homes for Everyone Plan](#). These changes would provide the foundation to address Ontario's housing supply crisis over the long term and would be supplemented by continued action in the future.

As part of More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23, the government introduced Bill 23 – the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, and is seeking feedback on the changes proposed under the legislation.

In addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has proposed regulatory and policy changes on which we are seeking your feedback. These and other related proposals can be found through [the Environmental Registry of Ontario](#).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keyes

Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

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Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Scott Fleming, Director of Finance & CSS

MEETING DATE: November 3, 2022

RE: Overview of Operating Budget 2023

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2023 Operating Budget, as presented, be approved by the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND

The goals established for the creation of the 2023 operating budget are as follows:

- 1) Engage in initiatives as outlined in HCA's 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan
- 2) Limit the levy increase to be no more than 2%, in line with 2021 and 2022, as no specific guidance was provided to HCA from the City of Hamilton
- 3) In areas subject to uncertainty, budget conservatively in order to mitigate risk
- 4) Operate on a cash neutral basis (Break-even)

STAFF COMMENTS

HCA continues to work towards completing initiatives identified in the 2019-2023 strategic plan. In 2023, HCA has budgeted to complete network and computer infrastructure upgrades, climate change initiatives such as energy audits, as well as the creation of a new 2024 – 2028 strategic plan with our current plan finalizing in 2023. The above items apply to Goal 1.

For Goal 2, which we have attained each year for the past decade, we will do so again by limiting the increase to no more than 2%, subject, of course, to the Board's approval. Last year the operating levy was \$4,684,000 before applying the increase such that the

2023 levy will be \$4,777,680. In terms of comparative figures, we used 2019 as a base year to compare line items as it is the last fully operational year available.

For Goals 3 & 4, recent years' financial results have been very favourable for the HCA. While the pandemic was devastating many businesses, it was driving hiking, camping and general outdoor activities to unprecedented levels. This trend continues to be favourable, although we are seeing some decline since the peak in 2021. The unknown, of course, is whether or not this will continue when other options, such as events, theatres, movies and malls have all fully re-opened and when other geographies such as the United States, once again become easily accessible. With the majority of pandemic restrictions being eliminated in March of 2022, HCA now has an unrestricted summer season under its belt, and thus, can make budgetary decisions based on this experience. Discovery of the outdoors may have permanently changed resident behaviour, and demand for HCA's passes may continue on at a higher level than pre-pandemic for the foreseeable future. There are more autogates installed so fewer free accesses, more people have now experienced our properties, and in general, the area population continues to grow. The Saltfleet Conservation Area is now open to the public, with the first of four wetland complexes now complete, and the Valens Lake cabins will come online in 2023. This new area and amenity further expanding our offerings, and will aid in attracting visitors to our Conservation Areas.

In terms of staffing, Watershed Management Services will be adding two new full-time staff in order to help support ecological programs, as well as permit and planning review service targets. Conservations Area Services will be adding one new full-time staff member in order to provide support for the Hamilton Mountain Conservation Areas, now that Saltfleet CA is open to the public.

On the compensation side, an inflationary increase of 3.5% has been included in salaries and wages which recognizes current COLA pressures and aligns with CPI statistics released from Statistics Canada (currently 6.9%). Additionally, like other organizations, HCA has experienced staff retirements, turnover with shorter employment tenures that are the new normal and competition for staff. HCA is currently completing a job evaluation and market salary survey for the organization as approved by the board in 2021. The results of the job evaluations will provide information as to how we are performing versus other employers, and it will provide us with an opportunity to make adjustments if needed.

One benefit of the recent strong results is that there now is an operating reserve that acts as a contingency should other assumptions fail to come through in the upcoming year. Therefore, Goal 4 is not at risk.

In conclusion, the 2023 Operating Budget presented is a break-even budget, with careful consideration having been given to the above noted goals.

OPERATING BUDGET 2023

Board of Directors November 3, 2022



OPERATING BUDGET GOALS

- 1) Engage in those activities identified as important in HCA's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan
- 2) Limit the municipal levy increase to be no more than 2%
- 3) In areas of uncertainty, budget conservatively to mitigate risk
- 4) Operate on a cash neutral basis (Break-Even)

Impact of COVID-19: 2020 – 2022 and Beyond

Full shut down legislated by the Province mid-March 2020

Partial reopening in June 2020, followed by reclosing in Fall of 2020 as second wave hits, gradual reopening approaching Spring of 2021 with “normalcy” in Fall of 2021, and eventual dropping of majority of remaining restrictions by March 2022

Found new ways to carry out business, some here to stay

- Order online; Reservations, Remote work;
- Virtual and Hybrid meetings the new normal

While many industries suffered, HCA hit record highs

- Daily admissions hit new heights
- Membership pass sales grow to record high in 2020, only to be surpassed in 2021
- Week day camping has never been stronger
- Despite events being restricted, pandemic brought out visitors to our green spaces like never before, and admissions have stayed above pre-pandemic

Impact of COVID-19: 2020 – 2022 and Beyond (cont'd)

Looking into 2023 major questions abound:

- Will the new found love of the outdoors continue even when malls and cinemas and sporting events recapture their crowds?
- Record numbers to our conservation areas requires our focus to be on managing the visitors we have and maintaining our facilities and properties accordingly
- COVID trends impacting supply chains and staffing challenges also impact HCA as we roll into the winter season.

A Balanced Budget

	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
<u>Revenues</u>				
Levy	\$ 4,778	\$ 4,684	\$ 4,622	\$ 4,418
Admissions	3,381	3,253	4,004	3,100
Camping/marina	3,467	2,916	3,147	2,579
Equipment rental	1,325	1,141	1,313	1,032
Other	2,985	2,095	2,968	3,089
	<u>15,936</u>	<u>\$ 14,089</u>	<u>\$ 16,054</u>	<u>14,218</u>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Staffing	9,959	9,027	8,147	8,355
Utilities	1,020	1,003	645	689
Equipment	907	768	739	600
Materials/supplies	706	698	456	502
Other	3,344	1,988	3,329	1,167
	<u>15,936</u>	<u>13,484</u>	<u>13,316</u>	<u>11,313</u>
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 605</u>	<u>\$ 2,738</u>	<u>\$ 2,905</u>

2023 total revenues nearly as high as 2021 reflecting softening of Admissions revenue, partially offset by strong demand for Camping.

Other revenues projected to equal 2020 & 2021.

Staff expense equals 62% of total costs (69% in 2019) Wages increased by 3.5% for change in CPI, and 3 new full-time staff were added.

Other expenses similar to 2021.

Watershed Management Services

	Budget <u>2023</u>	Budget <u>2022</u>	Actual <u>2021</u>	Actual <u>2020</u>
<u>Revenues</u>				
Levy support	\$ 2,211	\$ 1,642	\$ 1,103	\$ 1,454
Permits, fees	380	280	314	241
Grants	242	203	474	202
Other	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>353</u>
	2,911	2,203	2,228	2,250
<u>Expenses</u>				
Staffing	2,585	1,969	1,644	1,686
Contractors	30	10	127	489
Materials/supplies	115	52	23	22
Other	<u>182</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>53</u>
	2,911	2,203	2,228	2,250
Net surplus	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Levy allocation share increased to match changes in expenses
Permits and fees increasing \$100K as a step towards cost recovery

Staffing increased with two new hires to support permit and planning review service targets, as well as shifting allocations from CAs and CSS for work completed on WMS tasks (Christie & Valens dam, and video & postings)
Staffing represents 89% of costs (69% in 2019)

Conservation Areas

	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
<u>Revenues</u>				
Admissions	\$ 3,309	\$ 3,179	\$ 3,935	\$ 3,063
Marina	1,538	1,507	1,555	1,233
Camping	1,929	1,409	1,592	1,346
Other	<u>622</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>459</u>
	7,397	6,765	7,632	6,101
<u>Expenses</u>				
Staffing	3,349	3,046	2,739	2,273
Equipment	824	684	688	555
Materials/contractors	451	522	364	373
Utilities/fuel	558	640	278	400
Other	<u>823</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>1,124</u>	<u>686</u>
	6,004	5,523	5,194	4,287
Net surplus	<u>\$ 1,393</u>	<u>\$ 1,242</u>	<u>\$ 2,438</u>	<u>\$ 1,814</u>

Daily admissions and membership pass sales anticipated to soften in 2023

Marina believed to be sustainable at new levels, camping expected to increase with strong sales in 2022 and cabins in 2023

Cautious approach to other activities

Staffing cost increase with addition of 1 staff, minimum wage increase, and increased service levels
With Saltfleet and the Valens Lake cabin additions, equipment has increase to service those areas

Westfield Heritage Village & Conservation Area

	Budget <u>2023</u>	Budget <u>2022</u>	Actual <u>2021</u>	Actual <u>2020</u>
<u>Revenues</u>				
Levy	\$ 624	\$ 624	\$ 611	\$ 602
Admissions	72	74	69	37
Events	78	42	-	7
Other	<u>108</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>75</u>
	881	834	811	721
<u>Expenses</u>				
Staffing	558	554	512	470
Promotion	100	60	29	31
Materials/supplies	33	36	21	40
Utilities	60	52	46	49
Other	<u>130</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>81</u>
	881	834	718	671
Net surplus	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 93</u>	<u>\$ 50</u>

Levy increased at 2%.

Admissions flat based on usage as a conservation area.

Events fully return but more managed, smaller group sizes, through reservations.

Staffing at 63% of costs (63% in 2019).

Promotion is up, as events have fully returned.

Central Support Services

	Budget <u>2023</u>	Budget <u>2022</u>	Actual <u>2021</u>	Actual <u>2020</u>
<u>Revenues</u>				
Levy	\$ 1,943	\$ 2,234	\$ 2,908	\$ 2,490
Equipment	1,325	1,141	1,313	1,032
Management fees	500	400	202	183
Other	<u>977</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>1,441</u>
	4,745	4,104	5,383	5,146
<u>Expenses</u>				
Staffing	3,467	3,430	3,252	3,125
Utilities	402	311	321	240
Equipment	83	84	51	45
Materials/supplies	107	88	71	67
Other	<u>2,079</u>	<u>827</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>628</u>
	6,138	4,740	5,176	4,105
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>\$ (1,393)</u>	<u>\$ (637)</u>	<u>\$ 207</u>	<u>\$ 1,041</u>

Levy reduced as allocation goes first to WMS as “core” and next to Westfield as per agreement; remainder supports Central Services

Management fees reflect anticipated Wild Waterworks at Confed. Beach Park
Other reflects rebounding grant availability and transfers from reserves

Staffing represents 56% of cost (72% in 2019)

Other represents various items across HCA including: IT Modernization, Vehicle Purchases, Legal & Audit, etc.

Levy Request

This year levy increase is 2%

Province provides allocation percentages annually, this year virtually unchanged from 2022

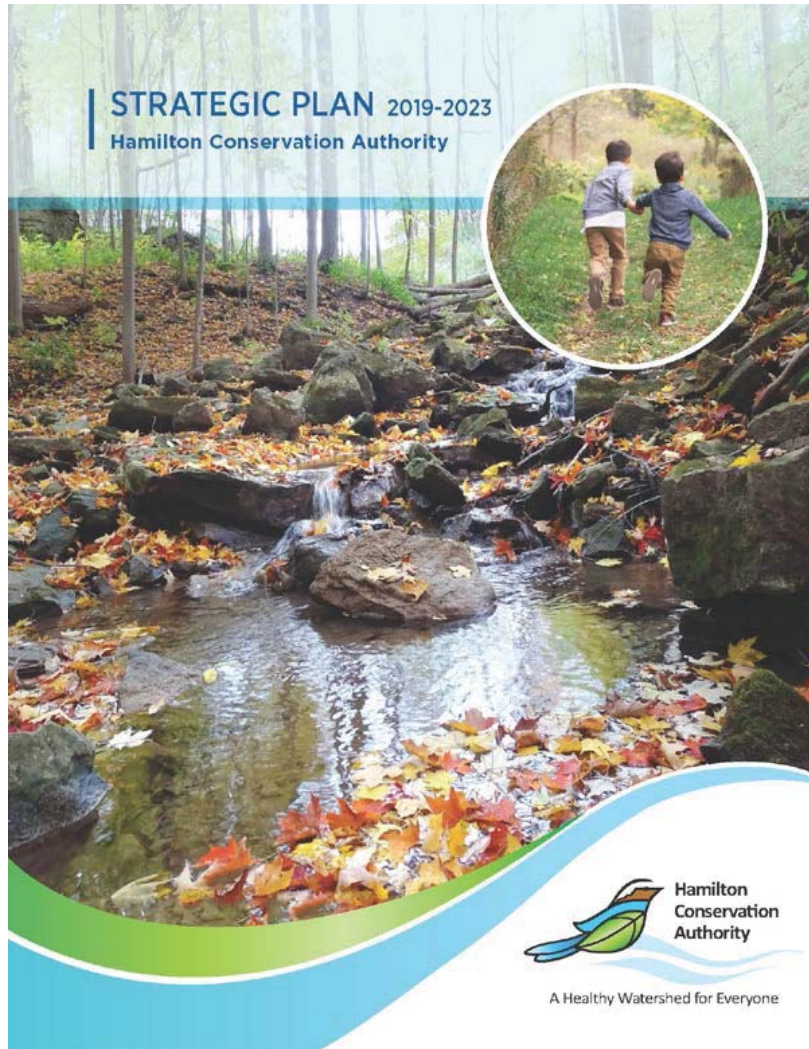
- City of Hamilton 99.37%
- Township of Puslinch 00.63%

Total Levy for 2023 \$ 4,778 thousand (\$ 4,684 thousand in 2022)

- City of Hamilton \$ 4,747,080
- Township of Puslinch \$ 30,600

Year over year impact on levy is an increase of \$ 94,680

Support the 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan



Through

- Organizational Excellence
- Education & Environmental Awareness
- Water Management
- Natural Heritage Conservation
- Conservation Area experience

Recommendation

THAT the 2023 Operating Budget, as presented, be approved by the Board of Directors.

Questions?



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone



Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director,
Watershed Management Services

PREPARED BY: Cherish Gamble, Watershed Stewardship Technician
Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Planning,
Stewardship & Ecological Services

MEETING DATE: November 3, 2022

RE: Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors endorse the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan; and further

THAT staff be directed to continue to work with the Biodiversity Working Group to support the on-going development of a Biodiversity Action Plan; and,

THAT staff be directed to provide the final approved Biodiversity Action Plan subsequent to City of Hamilton approval in 2023 for HCA Board of Directors consideration and approval.

BACKGROUND

Since 2018, a collective of representatives from Hamilton's conservation community has been meeting to discuss biodiversity conservation issues. From this collective, the premise of a Biodiversity Action Plan to address the pressing concern of species and habitat biodiversity protection and enhancement formed, and a Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) of the following organizations was established:

- City of Hamilton – staff from Natural Heritage Planning, Planning and Economic Development and Public Works

- Hamilton Conservation Authority – staff from the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program and Capital Projects and Strategic Services
- Hamilton Naturalists' Club
- Conservation Halton
- Environment Hamilton
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System
- Bay Area Restoration Council
- Paul Smith, Naturalist

On February 19, 2020, the City of Hamilton General Issues Committee passed a motion directing City staff to report on the feasibility and resources required to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan in collaboration with the conservation community. The recommendations of the General Issues Committee were approved by Council on February 26 and 27, 2020.

On April 7, 2021 the General Issues Committee passed a motion directing City of Hamilton staff from Planning and Economic Development and the Public Works Department to partner with local conservation organizations in order to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan. The City of Hamilton contributed \$40,000 towards this initiative, with an additional \$22,000 provided by the ArcelorMittal Dofasco Corporate Community Investment Fund (CCIF) Fund. The recommendations of the General Issues Committee were approved by Council on April 14, 2021.

Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a city-wide, multi-stakeholder collaborative initiative. The BWG has identified the following goals for the BAP:

- **Protect** biodiversity by incorporating practices to protect natural areas in policy and land management activities
- **Explore** and learn about biodiversity together through partnerships and community science.
- **Connect** partner policies, processes, data and workflows to streamline efforts to support biodiversity in Hamilton.
- **Restore** biodiversity across Hamilton through nature-based stewardship activities.

The BAP will provide an overview of Hamilton's biodiversity context and the key threats it faces. The BAP will also recommend a series of actions that the BAP partners and conservation community can undertake to address threats and advance the goals of the plan.

Based on HCA staff's involvement in the BWG, it is expected this will include recommended actions that would align with existing HCA programs and work plans, including activities related to ecological monitoring and restoration, stewardship programming, and management of HCA owned lands.

City of Hamilton staff have indicated a draft of the BAP will be presented to City Planning Committee in early 2023 to obtain support for the draft and direction for staff to engage with the public and stakeholders to solicit feedback on the draft plan.

STAFF COMMENT

HCA staff from the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program and Capital Projects and Strategic Services Division sit on the BWG, and have been involved in the on-going discussions and work to develop a draft of the BAP. The development of a Biodiversity Action Plan will contribute to HCA's vision and mission, continue to strengthen our positive working relationships with local conservation partners, and provide further opportunities for collaboration.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The goals of the BAP align with the HCA's vision, mission, commitment and corporate values, and refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
- **Strategic Priority Area – Water Management**
- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**
- **Strategic Priority Area – Education and Environmental Awareness**

AGENCY COMMENTS

N/A

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The endorsement to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan initiative will have no impact on the HCA budget. As the plan is implemented over time, some additional funding may be required to implement certain initiatives, however, that would be subject to annual work plans and budget considerations and approvals from the Board of Directors.

CONCLUSIONS

The development of a Biodiversity Action Plan is a joint initiative of the conservation community in Hamilton. The BAP aims to protect and restore the City's biodiversity, through collaborative action that will address threats to biodiversity. The BAP supports HCA's vision and mission, and aligns with other local stakeholder initiatives. The

endorsement of the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan by the HCA Board of Directors will enhance the BAP's credibility and help to support its continued development. HCA staff expect the BAP to be finalized in 2023, and will present the final plan to the Board of Directors at that time.

Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED & PREPARED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director, Watershed Management Services

MEETING DATE: November 3, 2022

RE: Request for Proposal – Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Design (Water Retention Facility and Natural Heritage Component) (SC-5)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the proposal for the Wetland Design - Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project submitted by Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team be accepted at a cost not to exceed \$ 186,862.08 plus HST.

BACKGROUND

The Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Program is being undertaken by the Hamilton Conservation Authority to create wetland areas above the Niagara Escarpment in the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek watershed.

Amec Foster Wheeler (Wood PLC) was contracted by the HCA to complete the "Flood and Erosion Project for the Upper Battlefield Creek and Upper Stoney Creek Report" pursuant to the "Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Projects, Conservation Ontario, January 2002 (amended 2013). This report was completed in February 2018 and provides specific direction for the location of the required wetlands to address flooding and erosion downstream. It is noted that to date, approximately 315 acres of land has been acquired as part of this project with these new lands comprising the Saltfleet Conservation Area.

Flowing from the completed environmental assessment and the previous design work and construction of the wetland at First Road East and the current design work being undertaken for the wetland at Green Mountain Road and Fifth Road East, HCA staff

have prepared and circulated a Request for Proposals for engineering, natural heritage and archeological consulting services to complete additional studies and prepare the detailed design for the third wetland to be constructed on the newly acquired parcel at the Devil's Punchbowl Conservation Area. The detailed design will be used to prepare tender documents for the construction of the wetland.

STAFF COMMENT

A Request for Proposal for the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Design (Water Retention Facility and Natural Heritage Component) (SC-5) was developed and a call for proposals issued. One proposal was submitted prior to the deadline of October 19, 2022 at 2pm which include a budget for the proposal:

Consultant	Budget
Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team	\$186,862.08 plus HST

Based on review of the proposal submitted, it is recommended that this project work be awarded to Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team for the following reasons:

- Water's Edge completed the design work for the previous two wetlands (BC-1 and SC-8) for the Saltfleet Conservation Area project and are familiar with the requirements of the overall project and the natural and physical features of the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek watersheds
- This consultant has experience in natural channel design and wetland design in Ontario including work for the Hamilton Conservation Authority on the Christie Lake Conservation Area Pond Decommissioning and Fish Habitat Improvement Project, floodplain mapping for Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek and as noted, the design for the first two wetlands that as part of the Saltfleet Conservation Area.
- This consultant has experience with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry regarding the Lakes & Rivers Improvement Act which will be of benefit for this project.
- The Water's Edge submission is detailed with tasks noted with associated specifics and costs. The Water's Edge submission provides a detailed accounting of the work to be undertaken which provides staff a high level of confidence regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of this proposal.
- In comparing the costs for the design of the previous two wetlands and the provided quote for the third wetland, staff are satisfied that the provided quote is reasonable and falls within the range expected to complete the design work for this third wetland.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Initiatives – Implement the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Program and have the first wetland designed and constructed by 2021.

AGENCY COMMENTS

N/A

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This design work will be paid from the funds available in the Saltfleet Conservation Area wetland development wetland accounts.

CONCLUSIONS

The detailed design work and associated studies is the last step in the process to move toward the construction of the third wetland and building on our successes in the construction of the first wetland and design of the second wetland. HCA staff anticipate completion of the design phase for this wetland to be completed by the end of 2023 with final agency approvals received in 2024. Construction of the wetland would proceed as funding and operational issues permit.



Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Director, Watershed Planning & Engineering

PREPARED BY: Jonathan Bastien, Water Resources Engineer

DATE: November 3, 2022

RE: Watershed Conditions Report

SYNOPSIS

During the period of September 27th 2022 to October 20th 2022, there were no observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding events or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events.

Currently there are no significant watercourse flooding, public safety concerns, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. Current flows are at baseflow conditions to slightly above baseflow conditions. That said, the current and average monthly flows in October so far have been significantly below long-term averages, at most gauges. These below average flow trends also extended into recent months.

The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake is currently about 25 cm below average for this time of year.

Current Christie Lake levels are well below preferred summer operating levels and are within the preferred winter operating levels. HCA staff continue to actively monitor and manage reservoir levels and dam outflows from Christie Lake.

Current Valens Lake levels are below preferred summer operating levels and above preferred winter operating levels. Levels in the reservoirs have been moderately decreasing over the last week during the ongoing annual winter drawdown of the Valens Lake reservoir.

There are currently no significant rainfall events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks. In the next 9 days, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected.

Today, due to worsening conditions the Hamilton Low Water Response Team declared a Level 2 Low Water Condition for the entire HCA watershed. The HCA watershed had been in a Level 1 Low Water Condition since July 28th, 2022. The declaration was accompanied by a request for a 20 percent voluntary reduction in normal water use. A fact sheet was also released that provided suggested strategies for reducing water use. HCA staff continue to undertake regular drought assessments and coordinate with the Hamilton Low Water Response team.

CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – October 20th, 2022

Current Flows in Major Area Watercourses

There are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant public safety concerns are occurring at this time. Current flows are at baseflow conditions to slightly above baseflow conditions at the five available streamflow gauges (Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street, Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street, and Red Hill Creek at Barton Street).

That said, current flows are significantly below long-term average monthly flows for October at most gauges. Current flows are lower than recordable limits at the Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 and Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street gauges. Current flows at the Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street and Red Hill Creek at Barton Street gauges are 24 to 23% of long-term averages, respectively. The exception is Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road gauge, where current flows are 144% of long-term average monthly flows, due at least in part to the ongoing annual winter drawdown of the Valens Lake reservoir.

Also, the average monthly flows in October so far have been significantly below long-term averages, at most gauges. While Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road gauge flows have been 55% of the long-term average, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 and Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street gauges have been predominantly lower than recordable limits during October. Also, Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street and Red Hill Creek at Barton Street gauge flows have been 32% and 31% of long-term averages, respectively.

These below average flow trends also extended into recent months. September was well below to significantly below average, at most gauges. Average monthly flows at the Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 gauge were predominantly lower than recordable limits during September, while Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street gauge flows were 22% of the long-term average monthly flows. Ancaster Creek and Red Hill

Creek gauges flows were 47 and 42% of averages, respectively. The exception was again Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road gauge, where flows were 76% of averages.

August was well below to significantly below average at all gauges. Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 gauge flows were predominantly lower than recordable limits during August, while Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road gauge and Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street gauge were 38 to 39% of the long-term average monthly flows, respectively). Ancaster Creek and Red Hill Creek gauge flows were 55 and 45% of averages, respectively.

July was significantly below average in Spencer Creek (10 to 35% of the long-term average monthly flows), and below average in Ancaster Creek and Red Hill Creek (66 and 65% of averages, respectively).

June was well below average in Spencer Creek (41 to 55% of the long-term average monthly flows), and slightly below average in Ancaster Creek and Red Hill Creek (74 and 75% of averages, respectively).

Furthermore, May was slightly below average at all available gauges (69 to 89% of the long-term average monthly flows), and the average monthly flows in April were below average (47 to 68% of the long-term average monthly flows).

Current Lake Ontario Water Levels

At this time, there are no observations, reports or expectations of significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level in the Hamilton area was 74.40 – 74.41 m IGLD85 as of yesterday. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake (74.40 m IGLD85 as of yesterday) is about 25 cm below average for this time of year.

Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

Current Christie Lake levels (765.39 ft) are well below preferred summer operating levels (771.0 to 771.5 ft) and are within the preferred winter operating levels (765.3 to 765.8 ft). Since mid June, dam outflows from Christie Lake have been mostly greater than reservoir inflows in general, and stored water in the reservoir has been slowly released to maintain minimum flow targets for ecological health downstream in Lower Spencer Creek. HCA staff continue to actively monitor and manage reservoir levels in and dam outflows from Christie Lake.

Current Valens Lake levels (274.77 m) are below preferred summer operating levels (275.25 to 275.45 m) and above preferred winter operating levels (274.15 to 274.40 m). Levels in the reservoirs have been moderately decreasing over the last week during the ongoing annual winter drawdown of the Valens Lake reservoir.

Current Soil Conditions

The surface and root-zone soils are currently moist to slightly wet, due to recent rain.

RECENT STORM EVENTS

During the period of September 27th 2022 to October 20th 2022, there were no observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding events or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events.

RECENT WATERSHED LOW WATER CONDITIONS

Due to worsening conditions, the Hamilton Low Water Response Team declared a Level 2 Low Water Condition for the entire HCA watershed today. This includes Spencer Creek, Chedoke Creek, Redhill Creek, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek, Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, as well as all of their tributaries and other minor watercourses. The HCA watershed had been in a Level 1 Low Water Condition since July 28th, 2022.

A press release was issued encouraging a 20 percent voluntary reduction in normal water use and a fact sheet provided suggested strategies for reducing water use. This water conservation request applies to all users of water supplied from watercourses, waterbodies, and groundwater sources within the HCA watershed. Also, this message was posted on HCA's website and social media. In addition, letters are being sent to local Permit to Take Water holders communicating this message. Furthermore, Hamilton LWRT members will share the water conservation message with other water users in their area / sector.

FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Watercourse Flooding

There are currently no significant rainfall events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks. HCA staff continue to monitor conditions and forecasts routinely. Resultant water levels and flows from currently anticipated rain are not expected to result in significant watercourse flooding.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

In the next 9 days, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected. According to International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board information, it is expected that the water level of Lake Ontario will continue a slow, seasonal decline over the coming

weeks. The rate and magnitude of water level changes will depend largely on received precipitation amounts and temperatures.

Watershed Low Water Conditions

HCA staff continue to undertake regular drought assessments and coordinate with the Hamilton Low Water Response team.



Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED & PREPARED BY: Gord Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

DATE: November 3, 2022

RE: Specific Agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors approve the attached agreement allowing for a deer harvest in an area of Dundas Valley Conservation Area as identified on Schedule 'A', and generally bounded by Martin Road to the east, Jerseyville Road to the south, Paddy Green Road to the west, and Powerline Road to the north and; as identified on Schedule 'B' and generally bounded by 50 metres into HCA lands between Weir's Lane to the east, the CN rail line to the north, the lot line of private properties along the south and west only on weekdays excluding Fridays between November 7 and December 1, 2022, inclusive for 2022 and further,

THAT the agreement extends to 2023 and 2024 for the same locations only on weekdays excluding Fridays between November 6 to December 7, 2023 and November 4 to December 5, 2024 inclusive.

BACKGROUND

The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) Board of Directors at its meeting of November 3, 2011 authorized entering into an agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWA) to establish a protocol for recognizing the Treaty Rights of the Haudenosaunee respecting hunting on HCA owned lands. The protocol continues in place. At the same meeting, the Board of Directors authorized entering into a Specific Agreement allowing hunting in the west end of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.

The specific agreement is recommended on a two-year cycle based on the ongoing relationship with the HWWA and with the field experience of the deer harvest since 2011.

This report details the proposed specific agreement to allow deer harvesting in the west end of the DVCA for the 2022 season and additionally for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

STAFF COMMENT

As a result of discussions between HWWA members and HCA staff, the specific agreement (attached) allows for deer harvesting in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area in two locations.

The agreement is similar to last year providing for the taking of up to 60 deer, notification to Hamilton Police Services and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry officials and notification to the public and trail closures.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Initiatives – Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowners and Indigenous Peoples
- **Strategic Priority Area – Education and Environmental Awareness**
 - Initiatives – Identify and support outreach opportunities within all of our program areas

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the Treaty Rights of the Haudenosaunee, and the successful relationship the HCA has developed with the HWWA, it is appropriate that the HCA enter into the Specific Agreement attached to this report.

2022 - 2024 Specific Agreement:

Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority and Hamilton Conservation Authority

This agreement is to be read jointly with the Protocol made between the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWHA) and the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) on November 3, 2011.

This agreement addresses the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA), which is administered by the HCA and specifically those parts of the Area illustrated on the attached two maps, Schedule "A" and Schedule "B".

We are reaffirming that the attached maps are the only maps to which we are referring, and that our agreement is intended to facilitate a deer harvest that is consistent with Haudenosaunee treaty rights, and is consistent with our shared standards of safety and conservation. It does not and cannot affect or diminish Haudenosaunee rights.

The following factors have helped to establish some parameters for the harvesting of deer:

1. This Specific Agreement, like the Protocol that authorizes it, has been developed in the spirit of a growing relationship between the HCA and the HWWHA based upon respect, trust, and friendship.
2. HCA staff and HWWHA members will continue to make observation of the ground conditions of the DVCA with respect to deer habitat, over grazing, and potential damage to other native species.
3. The conservation lands identified in Schedule A and Schedule B of the DVCA are available for Haudenosaunee deer harvesting. Ensuring that public and harvester safety is the overriding priority. Private property land holdings outside of the scheduled conservation lands are not covered in this agreement.
4. HWWHA will continue to provide the deer harvest communication with all harvesters. HWWHA will also continue to provide the final tally of the harvest per each scheduled area indicating the number of deer harvested following the completion of the harvest each year.

For 2022, 2023 and 2024 seasons, the number of deer harvested from the areas identified as Schedules "A" and "B" combined shall not exceed sixty deer in each year.

Deer harvesting within the Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" will take place only on HCA owned lands, and only on weekdays, excluding Fridays, between November 7 and December 1, 2022, inclusive and November 6 to December 7, 2023, and November 4 to December 5, 2024 inclusive. The HCA and the HWWHA will monitor the deer harvest and will remain in consistent contact throughout the harvesting period.

The HCA and the HWWA will contact the Hamilton Police Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to inform them of the intent and provisions and of this agreement, and to secure their co-operation and involvement in ensuring public and harvester safety. A Task Agency meeting will be held within two weeks of the harvest commencement for each year of the agreement.

Haudenosaunee harvesters will use the safest means possible to take deer humanely. They will use archery equipment, including compound bows and crossbows. They will not use firearms, rifles, or shotguns. They will not use dogs, feed bait, or jack-lighting. They will not harvest before dawn or after dark. They will as often as possible use tree stands and blinds, such use to be determined by factors of safety and effectiveness. They may also wear blaze orange clothing to ensure they are aware of one another's presence.

The HCA will use the "Conservation Alert and Trail Closure Protocol" approved by its Board on February 3, 2011 as a basis for informing the public of the harvesting of deer pursuant to this agreement.

Specifically, public notification of "Trail Closure" will be:

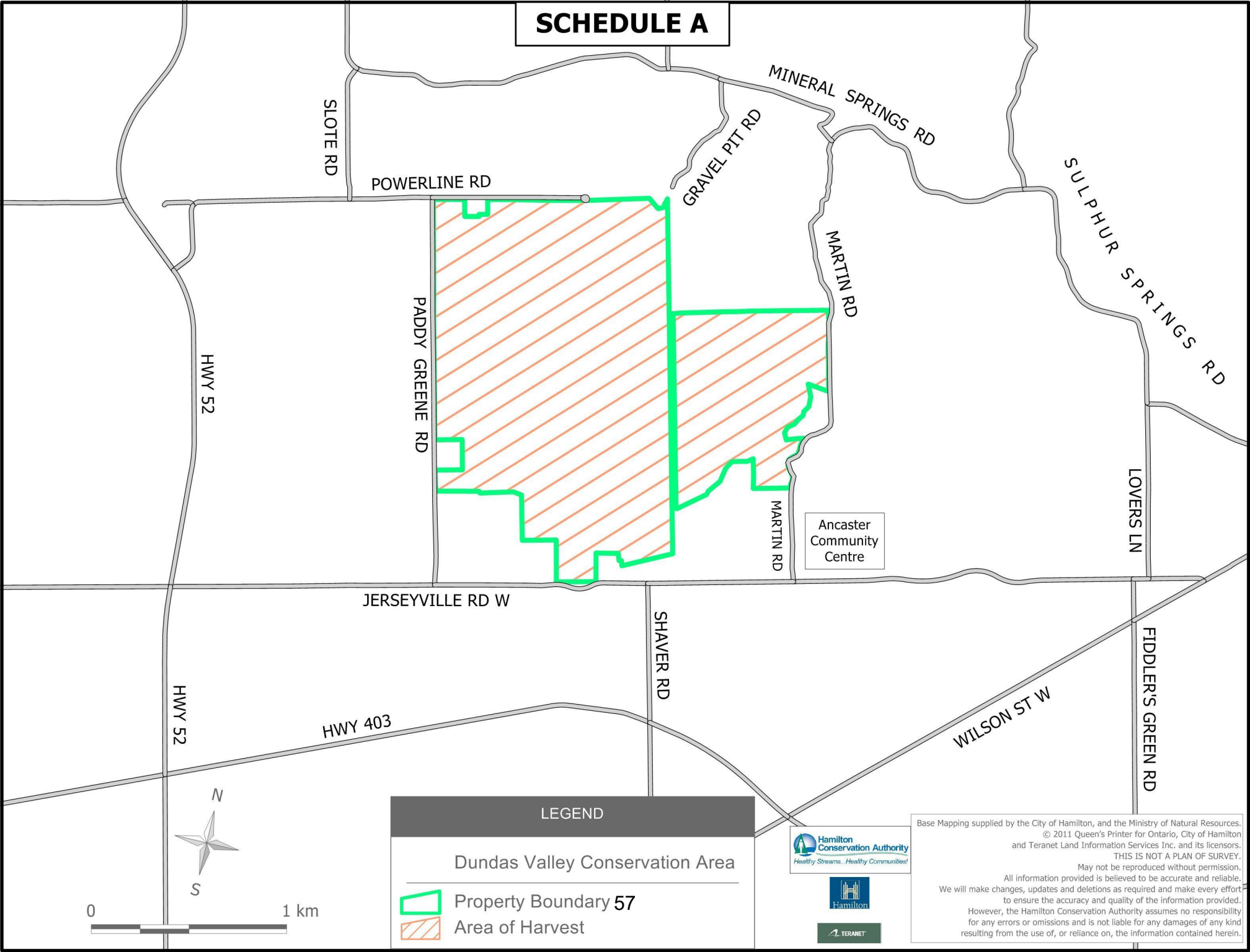
- A media release to local radio, television and newspapers.
- Notification to the Board of the HCA, City Council, and the office of the City Manager of Hamilton by way of the written media release.
- Hand delivery of notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the harvest area. The notice will include telephone numbers and contacts for the HCA staff, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Hamilton Police Service.
- Posting of the "Public Notice of Trail Closure" on the HCA website.
- Posting of "Public Notice of Trail Closure" at the Dundas Valley Trail and Conservation Area gatehouse.
- Posting of "Public Notice of Trail Closure" at main trail entry points.

Date: _____

CAO: Hamilton Conservation Authority

Haudenosaunee Wildlife
and Habitat Authority

SCHEDULE A



Ancaster
Community
Centre

LEGEND

Dundas Valley Conservation Area



Property Boundary 57



Area of Harvest



Base Mapping supplied by the City of Hamilton, and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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SCHEDULE B



LEGEND

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

-  Property Boundary
-  Area of Harvest 59
-  Area Closed (buffer area)



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