



File A.39.6

Municipality of Middlesex Centre
Attn: Michael DiLullo, Chief Administrative Officer
via email - dilullo@middlesexcentre.on.ca

Adelaide Metcalfe

Bluewater

Central Huron

Huron East

Lambton Shores

Lucan Biddulph

Middlesex Centre

North Middlesex

Perth South

South Huron

Warwick

West Perth

Dear Michael,

Re: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Inventory of Programs and Services

I am pleased to provide you with the final Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Inventory of Programs and Services, approved by the Board of Directors on November 16, 2023.

Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* requires each conservation authority to complete an inventory of programs and services. This document lists all the programs and services the authority is providing and intends to provide. It includes the recent average annual costs and estimated costs for future projects as well as the percentage of costs covered by various funding sources. The Board of Directors continues to approve annual budgets.

O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation requires Conservation Authority (CA) activities to be slotted into three categories and this is identified in the inventory.

Category 1 defines the following mandatory programs and services:

- Preparing and managing for risk of natural hazards
- Conserving and managing lands owned or controlled by a CA
- Continuing to implement Provincial stream and groundwater monitoring
- Developing a core watershed-based resource management strategy
- CA duties, functions, and responsibilities as a Source Protection Authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*
- CA duties, functions and responsibilities under other legislation prescribed by regulation:
 - On-site sewage system approvals by North Bay – Mattawa CA



- Lake Simcoe Region CA duties, functions, and responsibilities under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008

Please note the latter two programs do not apply to the ABCA.

Category 2 activities are at the request of, or on behalf of, a municipality through a Memorandum of Understanding or other agreement. For example, some member municipalities have an agreement with ABCA to provide Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Official duties.

Certain programs and services the CA deems to be required to conserve the watershed are included in Category 3. If a municipal levy, to fund all or a portion of a program, is required, the CA needs to enter into a cost apportioning agreement with the participating municipalities to allow the program and service to be financed by the municipal levy after January 1, 2024. The ABCA has entered into Cost Apportioning Agreements with 11 of 12 member municipalities.

CAs can also provide programs and services without municipal agreements if these programs and services are funded by revenue that is not a municipal levy, including self-generated revenue or contracts or funding from other sources.

The programs and services in this inventory will be included in the Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy, which is being developed in 2024.

Thank you for your on-going support. We look forward to working with you to conserve the watersheds.

Sincerely,

AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Brian Horner, CPA, CA
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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Encl: ABCA Final Inventory of Programs and Services

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
2023 Inventory of Programs and Services - Final

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
<p>Natural Hazard Management Program Program Description: Conservation Authorities (CAs) are the lead provincial agencies on Natural Hazard issues. The goal is to protect life and property from flooding and erosion. This watershed-wide, comprehensive program includes: development applications and permits, municipal plan input and review, environmental planning and policy, flood forecast and warning, flood and erosion control infrastructure, technical studies, ice management, education and public awareness.</p>					
Section 28.1 Permit Administration	Reviewing and processing permit applications, associated technical reports, site inspections, communication with applicants, agents, and consultants and legal costs.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$204,750	Municipal Levy – 50%, Self Generated – 50%
Municipal Plan Input and Review	<p>Technical information and advice to municipalities on circulated municipal land use planning applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Subdivisions, Consents, Minor Variances).</p> <p>Input to municipal land-use planning documents (OP, Comprehensive ZB, Secondary plans) related to natural hazards, on behalf of Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNMNRF), delegated to CAs in 1983.</p> <p>Input to the review and approval processes under other applicable law, with comments principally related to natural hazards, wetlands, watercourses and Sec. 28 permit requirements.</p>	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$91,000	Provincial – 2%, Municipal Levy – 68%, Self Generated – 30%
Municipal Drain and Fisheries Review	This is a component of CA Act approvals for municipal drainage works. While specific to drain review and associated hazards, this also protects headwater function, habitat and ecosystem health. Recognizing this, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other partners provide funding to ABCA in order to conduct fisheries assessments on their behalf. This includes the municipal drain classification	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$40,750	Federal – 13% Municipal Levy – 50%, Self Generated – 37%

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
	program, which classifies “not rated” drains to help streamline Fisheries Act approvals to the benefit of both Drain Superintendents and landowners.				
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Daily data collection and monitoring of weather forecasts, provincial and local water level forecasts, watershed conditions, snow course, flood event forecasting, flood warning, communications and response and equipment maintenance. Annual meeting with municipal flood emergency coordinator.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$136,000	Provincial -20%, Municipal Levy – 76%, Self Generated – 4%
Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure Operation and Management	Water and erosion control infrastructure and low flow augmentation. Includes seven flood control projects and 16 erosion control projects that are annually inspected and routine maintenance work completed. New Project: Update asset management plan for these structures.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$104,500	Provincial – 20%, Municipal Levy – 76%, Self Generated – 4%
Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure Major Maintenance	Major maintenance on flood and erosion control structures as required. Projects are dependent on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding from the province.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$50,750	Provincial – 50% Municipal Levy – 50%
Ausable River Channel Monitoring	Monitoring Ausable River channel morphology changes at Port Franks due to ice and high flows.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$16,000	Provincial – 9%, Municipal Levy 91%
Low water response	Conditions monitoring and analysis. Technical and administrative support to the Water Response Team representing major water users and decision makers, who recommend drought response actions.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$6,750	Provincial – 22%, Municipal Levy – 78%
Information Management	Data collection, mapping, data sets, watershed photography. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$8,750	Municipal Levy 65%, Self Generated – 35%
Technical Studies and Policy Review	Studies and projects to inform natural hazards management programs including: floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulations areas mapping update, flood	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$20,500	Municipal – 100%

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
	forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, Lake Huron shoreline management. These projects often last one to two years and are distributed over time as human resources and funding is available.				
Natural Hazards Communications, Outreach and Education	Promoting public awareness of natural hazards including flooding, drought, and erosion. Public events, materials. Social media services. Media relations. Educate elementary school students and the public about the danger of floodwaters.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$9,000	Provincial – 56 % Municipal Levy – 44%
<p>Provincial Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring</p> <p>Program Description: The ABCA, in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Parks (MECP), has established long term sites to monitor surface and ground water conditions.</p>					
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)	A long-standing (50+ year) CA/MECP partnership for stream water quality monitoring at nine sites. CA takes water samples and MECP does lab analysis and data management. Information is used for watershed report cards and stewardship project prioritization.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$13,750	Municipal Levy – 95%, Self Generated – 5%
Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)	A long-standing CA/MECP partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring at 16 stations. Costs include equipment, data collection, analysis, data management and reporting. MECP funded network installation and continues to fund equipment replacements. Data collected supports flood forecast and warning, low water response, and water quality monitoring.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$40,250	Municipal Levy – 97%, Self Generated – 3%
Integrated Water and Climate Station	Water monitoring site at Parkhill Conservation Area at Parkhill Reservoir inlet for groundwater, soil, water quality and meteorological parameters. Data collected support flood forecast and warning, low water response, water quality monitoring and a number of external partners including MECP and academic institutions.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$12,250	Provincial – 30%, Municipal Levy – 55%, Self Generated – 15%

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
Local Water Quality Monitoring					
Program Description: The ABCA, in partnership with community organizations, municipalities, and federal and provincial agencies has established sites to monitor surface water quality and quantity.					
Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program	Surface water quality monitoring at nine sites (in addition to PWQMN), Lake Huron nearshore water monitoring at area beaches, edge-of-field monitoring at Huronview Demonstration Farm near Clinton, benthic monitoring at 30 sites across the watersheds. Responding to local spills events at the request of MECP. Costs include sampling, analysis and reporting.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$203,500	Federal – 7%, Municipal Levy – 32%, Self Generated – 61%
Huron County Sentinel Well Program	Long-term monitoring at six drinking water wells to characterize water quality within six major aquifers in Huron County. Through a contract, the wells have been sampled annually since 2004 with reports provided to the county and health unit.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$4,500	Upper Tier Contract - 100%
Watershed Report Card	Conservation Authorities report on local watershed conditions every five years. The ABCA watershed is divided into 16 subwatersheds. Measuring increases understanding of the watershed, focuses efforts and tracks progress.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$13,500	Municipal Levy – 86%, Self Generated – 14%
Drinking Water Source Protection					
Program Description: The protection of municipal drinking water supplies in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Region through the development and implementation of the Source Protection Plans.					
Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP)	Source Protection Area/Region, technical support, Source Protections Committee support, Source Protection Authority reports and meetings. Activities required by the Clean Water Act and regulations.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$243,500	Provincial – 100%
DWSP Risk Management Official	Carrying out Part IV duties of the Clean Water Act on behalf of municipalities through service agreements. <u>Category 2: ABCA municipal agreements</u>	2 3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.1 and 2	\$94,250	Municipal Contracts – 100%

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
	Municipality of Bluewater: 11/29/2023 Municipality of Central Huron: 11/02/2023 Municipality of Huron East: 11/08/2023 <u>Category 3: Maitland Valley CA municipal agreements</u> Municipality of Morris-Turnberry: 11/21/2023 Municipality of North Perth: 11/21/2023 Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh: 12/06/2023 Township of Huron-Kinloss: 12/05/2023 Township of North Huron: 11/21/2023				
Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy					
Program Description: The purpose of a watershed plan is to understand the current conditions of the watershed, and identify measures to protect, enhance, and restore the health of the watershed. Watershed strategies provide a management framework to provide recommendations which consists of goals, objectives, indicators, and management recommendations. This addresses existing issues in the watershed and mitigate impacts from potential future land uses, while recommending appropriate actions to protect, enhance, and restore the watershed.					
Strategy Development	New Project: Collate/compile existing resource management plans, watershed plans, studies and data. Strategy development, implementation and annual reporting. The strategy will be completed in 2024 and there will not be ongoing costs.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$0	
Sub-watershed Plans and Projects					
Program Description: Watershed strategies provide a management framework to provide recommendations which consists of goals, objectives, indicators, and recommendations. This addresses existing issues in the watershed and mitigate impacts from potential future land uses, while recommending appropriate actions to protect, enhance, and restore the watershed.					
Subwatershed Initiatives not related to natural hazards	The ABCA works with communities to develop and implement subwatershed plans. Plans and initiatives are: Ausable River Recovery Strategy, Old Ausable Channel and Port Franks Management Strategy, Bayfield River, Bayfield River Watershed Plan and Lake Huron Tributaries Watershed Plan. Activities include: community engagement	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$526,250	Federal – 20%, Provincial – 25%, Municipal Levy -25%, Self Generated – 30%

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
	and objective setting, supporting protection, enhancement and restoration activities, and monitoring and evaluating actions. Note: Natural hazard considerations will be incorporated when the plans are reviewed and updated.				
Lake Huron Regional Initiative	Collaborative project of federal and provincial agencies and Lake Huron Southeast Shore Conservation Authorities to develop watershed plans to address broader-scale water quality issues and natural hazard issues in near-shore areas and contributing watersheds.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$228,000	Federal – 9%, Provincial - 83%, Self Generated – 8%
<p>Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas Program Description: The ABCA owns 3,616 hectares of land which includes conservation areas, management areas, conservation forests, farmland and flood control structures and surrounding land. ABCA property is essential to watershed management, environmental protection, helps implement the Watershed Management Strategy and provides areas for passive recreation.</p>					
Section 29 Minister's regulation for Conservation Areas	Conservation areas regulations enforcement/compliance.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$20,500	Self Generated – 100 %
Great Canadian Hideaway Campground	Long-term lease with a private party to operate a campground and associated facilities at Parkhill Conservation Area.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$250	Self Generated – 100%
ABCA forests and management areas (not Conservation Areas)	Management and maintenance of CA owned lands. Includes forest management, signage, gates, passive recreation, stewardship, restoration, ecological monitoring, carrying costs such as taxes and insurance.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$110,250	Municipal Levy – 5%, Self Generated – 95%
Conservation Areas	Management and maintenance of nine conservation areas and one recreational trail. Includes passive recreation, risk management program, hazard tree management, gates, fencing, signage, brochures, communications, pedestrian bridges, trails, parking lots, pavilions, roadways, stewardship, restoration, ecological monitoring, carrying costs such as taxes and insurance.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$132,250	Municipal Levy – 10%, Self Generated – 90%

Program/Service and Subservices	Description	Category (1,2,3)	Category Rationale	Average Annual Costs	Funding mechanism and percentage of costs
Conservation Area Major Maintenance	Major maintenance and capital improvements to support public access, safety and environmental protection such as pedestrian bridges, boardwalks, trails.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$50,750	Municipal Levy – 25% Self Generated – 75%
Land acquisition	Strategic acquisition of environmentally-significant properties.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	TBD	Self Generated – 100%
Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy properties	Management and maintenance of HTLTC owned lands. Includes passive recreation, risk management program, hazard tree management, forest management, signage, trails, parking lots, buildings, roadways, stewardship, restoration, ecological monitoring, carrying costs such as taxes and insurance.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$50,750	Self Generated – 100%
Inventory of Conservation Authority lands	New Project: The land inventory will include the following information: location as well as date, method and purpose of acquisition, land use. One time project with updates as properties are acquired or disposed of.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$0	
Strategy for CA owned or controlled lands and management plans	New Project –A strategy to guide the management and use of CA-owned or controlled properties including: guiding principles, objectives, land use, natural heritage, classifications of lands, mapping, identification of programs and services on the lands, public consultation, publish on website. This project will be completed in 2024 and will not have on-going costs.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$0	
Land Acquisition and Disposition Strategy	A policy to guide the acquisition and disposition of land in order to fulfill the objects of the authority. Completed in 2022.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$0	
Species at Risk Inventory	Periodic inventories of terrestrial Species at Risk on ABCA lands, GIS mapping and submission of data to NHIC. Information guides land use activities and restoration projects.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$12,250	Self Generated – 100%

Watershed Stewardship and Restoration (Urban, rural & agricultural)

Program Description: The stewardship and restoration program has three key components: one-on-one technical assistant to watershed landowners, connecting landowners with cost-share funding, and the reforestation program. Projects reduce the risk to life and property from natural hazards, protect water quality and quantity, improve forest conditions, increase biodiversity and make the watersheds more resilient to climate change.

Private Land Stewardship Program	Work with property owners to implement Best Management Practices to mitigate flood and erosion hazards, improve and protect water quality, restore floodplains and river valleys, reduce nutrient contamination, restore and enhance wetlands to reduce flooding peaks and augment low flow, management of terrestrial non-native invasive species, protect groundwater, and improve aquatic species at risk habitat. Apply for and manage external funding, promote private land stewardship, outreach, provide technical advice and design assistance.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$371,500	Federal – 54%, Provincial – 7%, Municipal Levy – 9%, Self Generated – 30%
Tree Planting and Forestry Services	Forestry services including planting plan development, site preparation, tree and shrub planting, and survival assessments. Private woodlot stewardship, technical assistance, link to funding programs to maintain form and function of watershed forest cover.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$255,250	Self Generated – 100%

Corporate Administration – Enabling Services:

Program Description: Key assistance provided to all departments of the conservation authority, board of directors, member municipalities and the general public to enable the ABCA to operate in an accountable, efficient and effective manner.

Corporate Services	Administrative, human resources, operating and capital costs which are not directly related to the delivery of any specific program or service, but are the overhead and support costs of a conservation authority. Includes health and safety program, overseeing programs and policies.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$376,000	Provincial – 3%, Municipal Levy 89%, Self Generated 8%
Financial Services	Annual budget, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, financial analysis, financial audit, administration of reserves and investments, financial reports for funding agencies,	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$101,500	Provincial – 3%, Municipal Levy 89%, Self Generated 8%

	preparing and submitting reports to CRA, benefits program administration.				
Legal Expenses	Costs related to agreements/contracts, administrative by-law updates	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$2,250	Provincial – 3%, Municipal Levy 89%, Self Generated 8%
Governance	Supporting CA Boards, Advisory Committees, Office of CEO/CAO/GM and Senior Management.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$16,500	Provincial – 3%, Municipal Levy 89%, Self Generated 8%
Communications and Outreach	Informing public of ABCA programs and projects through media, open houses, public meetings, website administration, responding to inquiries from the public, crisis communications.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$48,250	Municipal Levy – 100%
Administration Buildings	Office buildings and workshop used to support ABCA staff, programs and services. Includes utilities, routine and major maintenance, property taxes. Note: The Average Annual Cost does not include accessibility upgrades needed by January 1, 2025. These costs are estimated to be approximately \$250,000 in total over the next few years.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$67,000	Provincial – 3% Municipal Levy – 89%, Self Generated – 8%
Information Technology Management/ GIS	Data management, records retention. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$134,500	Municipal Levy - 21%, Self Generated - 79%
Vehicle and Equipment	A fleet of vehicles and equipment to support the work of the ABCA, including capital purchases, fuel, licenses, repairs and maintenance. Programs and projects are charged for the use of the vehicles and equipment.	1	CA Act Sec. 21.1	\$87,250	Self Generated - 100%
Conservation Education and Community Outreach					
Program Description: Education and outreach programs increase knowledge and awareness in children and adults about local environmental issues, watersheds and ecosystems and conservation actions they can implement.					
School programs	Curriculum-based education programs for elementary and secondary students. These programs focus on local watersheds, ecosystems, and environmental issues. Programs take place at schools (indoors and outdoors), field	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$69,500	Municipal Levy - 46%, Self Generated - 54%

	trips to conservation areas and community parks and through online learning.				
Community programs and events	Education and outreach programs and community events to assist in achieving the objectives of the conservation authority. These programs are open to people of all ages.	3	CA Act Sec. 21.1.2	\$77,250	Municipal Levy - 70%, Self Generated - 30%