

Jeanne Harfield  
The Town of Mississippi Mills  
3131 Old Perth Rd Box 400, Almonte, ON K0A 1A0

October 29, 2020

Dear Ms. Harfield,

As a member of the Authority, please find below highlights from the October 21 Board of Directors meeting of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for distribution to Council. Complete minutes for the meeting will be circulated following their approval by the Board at the next meeting.

### **Watershed Conditions & Outlook**

Water Resources Technologist Jennifer North provided an update on conditions across the watershed: The annual fall drawdown is underway. Winter target levels are normally reached before freeze up but are dependent on how much rainfall the watershed receives over the fall season. Average seasonal conditions (average temperatures and precipitation) are expected over the next few months.

### **Carp River Conservation Area**

An agreement has been signed between MVCA and the City of Ottawa for the Carp River site in Kanata. It can officially be referred to as the Carp River Conservation Area. The site features paved walking paths, wet meadows, a habitat pond and native trees and shrubs. Immediate plans for the site include signage and the launch of an interactive, educational app in early 2021. For more information visit <https://mvc.on.ca/conservation-areas/carp-river/>.

### **Stimulus Projects**

The Board approved seeking stimulus funding for the following projects:

- Shabomeka Lake Dam Reconstruction
- LiDAR and Flood Risk Analysis – Upper Mississippi River
- Mill of Kintail (MOK) Centralized Parking Lot
- Gatehouse Access and Security System

### **Watershed Plan Goals & Objectives**

MVCA is drafting a Watershed Plan for the Mississippi River. Work began in 2019 with the establishment of a Public Advisory Committee and the drafting of four Backgrounders that summarize key facts, trends, and challenges facing the watershed. The Board approved eight goals and

supporting objectives that will be included in a Discussion Paper to be released to the public in early 2021. The Discussion Paper will summarize key issues and identify a range of actions that might be undertaken by MVCA or other organizations in the watershed. <https://mvc.on.ca/about-your-ca/current-initiatives/mississippi-river-watershed-plan/>

### **Environmental Compliance Approval**

Changes are forthcoming to Ontario's environmental approval process for municipal sewage works (including stormwater). The province will be implementing a Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Permissions Approach that will consolidate and modify current approval processes, with implications for both municipalities and conservation authorities. Specifically, changes will require the review of existing municipal policies, the development of criteria, and updates to the CA-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). MVCA can assist municipalities in meeting required monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **2021 Fees and Budget**

The Board approved the 2021 fee schedule which includes an increase for the site fee at Morris Island Conservation Area from \$3 to \$6 per vehicle. An annual pass can be purchased for \$46 plus HST.

The Board also directed staff to develop the 2021 budget in accordance with the following parameters, which are in line with those set by the City of Ottawa, the Authority's largest funder:

1. An assumed growth in tax assessment of 1.5%.
2. A municipal levy increase of 2.0% to the operating budget.
3. A municipal levy increase of 2.5% to the capital budget.
4. Potential debt financing of capital works on assets with lifecycles greater than 25 years.