

Municipal Clerks/Chief Administrative Officers,

**Re: FOR DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL**

As a member of the Authority, please find below highlights from the October 21, 2024 Board of Directors meeting for distribution. Attached are draft minutes of the meeting, and approved minutes of the September 9, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Employee Presentation: Review of Stewardship Program and Objectives**

Staff presented a summary of the 2024 stewardship program and plans for 2025. Highlights included:

- The ALUS Lanark program has expanded to become ALUS Mississippi-Rideau and is now available to 31 municipalities.
- Project carried out under the shoreline naturalization and planting program and the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program.
- Community outreach initiatives.

**Watershed Update**

2024 has had above average rain resulting in higher flows throughout the watershed. MVCA issued water safety bulletins in February, March, April, June, July and August relating to unsafe conditions and higher than normal flows. The system has functioned as intended, reducing flooding impacts to the watershed. [The fall lake drawdown schedule](#) is posted on the MVCA website.

**GM Update**

- **K&P Trail** - MVCA has received an updated Agreement of Purchase & Sale from the three counties, with an appended Lease Agreement.
- **Renewal of Morris Island CA License of Occupancy** – the license agreement with OPG and the City of Ottawa was recently renewed for a ten-year period.
- **Operating System Windows 10** – Microsoft is discontinuing support of Windows 10 on October 14, 2025 and several computers will require replacement.

**Job Evaluation and Implementation Plan & Salary Review**

The Board approved changes in job ratings and appointed the Executive Committee to review management compensation.

**Proposed Budget Assumptions**

The Board directed staff to develop the 2025 budget and related documents in accordance with the following parameters:

1. An increase of 2.9% plus assessment growth to the Operating Levy;

2. An increase of 8.5% plus assessment growth to the Capital Levy;
3. An assumed assessment growth rate of 1.5%;
4. A cost of living increase to the 2025 Pay Scale of 2.0%; and
5. Transfer \$64,664 onto the Municipal Levy for Workforce Plan Adjustments.

### **Draft Land Conservation and Resource Strategy**

The Board received the Draft Land Conservation and Resource Strategy. A virtual information session was held October 29 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit our [website](#) to view the draft document and the presentation and video from the info session. The comment period ends on **November 22**. All municipalities have been circulated. Following the consultation period, the document will be amended as needed and rise to MVCA’s Board of Directors for approval December 9.

### **Education Program Review**

The Board approved reinstatement of a Nature Education Program for 2025.

### **MVCA Asset Management Plan**

The Board approved the *MVCA Asset Management Plan*.

### **Fee Schedule Update**

The Board approved updates to schedules D and E of the *MVCA Fee Schedule*. Schedule D fees are related to Conservation Areas, rentals, programs and administration and Schedule E fees are related to stewardship services.

### **Appointment of 2024 Auditor**

The board approved appointment of the firm Baker Tilley REO as the Authority’s auditor for the year 2024.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Draft minutes of the October 21, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.
- Approved Minutes of the September 9, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.



**MINUTES**

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom  
and at MVCA Office

Board of Directors Meeting

October 21, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Paul Kehoe, Chair  
Jeff Atkinson, Vice Chair  
Allan Hubley  
Allison Vereyken (Virtual)  
Bev Holmes  
Cathy Curry (Virtual)  
Cindy Kelsey  
Clarke Kelly (Virtual)  
Dena Comley  
Glen Gower  
Helen Yanch (Virtual)  
Janet Mason  
Mary Lou Souter  
Richard Kidd  
Roy Huetl

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Steven Lewis  
Taylor Popkie

**STAFF PRESENT**

Sally McIntyre, General Manager  
Juraj Cunderlik, Director of Engineering  
Alex Broadbent, Manager of IC & T  
Scott Lawryk, Properties Manager  
Matt Craig, Manager of Planning & Regulations  
Stacy Millard, Treasurer (Virtual)  
Jennifer North, Water Resources Technologist  
Marissa Okum, Stewardship Technician  
Kayla Cuddy, Stewardship Field Assistant  
Krista Simpson, Administrative Assistant (Virtual)  
Kelly Hollington, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

Joanne Glaser, Cornerstones Management Solutions Ltd.

P. Kehoe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Declarations of Interest (Written)

Members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest and informed that they may declare a conflict at any time during the session. No declarations were received.

Agenda Review

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

**BOD24/10/21 - 1**

**MOVED BY: D. Comley**

**SECONDED BY: R. Huetl**

**Resolved, that the agenda for the October 21, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented.**

**“CARRIED”**

**MAIN BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting, September 9, 2024

There were no additions or amendments to the minutes.

**BOD24/10/21 - 2**

**MOVED BY: G. Gower**

**SECONDED BY: J. Atkinson**

**Resolved, that the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on September 9, 2024 be received and approved as printed.**

**“CARRIED”**

2. Employee Presentation: Review of Stewardship Program and Objectives, Marissa Okum & Kayla Cuddy

M. Okum and K. Cuddy presented a review of MVCA’s stewardship program for 2024. M. Okum highlighted the expansion of ALUS Lanark to ALUS Mississippi Rideau, covering 31 municipalities. She reviewed the stewardship projects for 2024 including: ALUS, Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, and shoreline naturalization and planting. K. Cuddy reviewed community engagement and outreach projects including the City Stream Watch program, an invasive species removal from Watt’s Creek funded through the Invasive Species Action Fund, TD Tree days planting event and UnSmoke Canada litter removal event. M. Okum reviewed the program’s funding and partnerships and planned projects for 2025.

P. Kehoe asked about the current condition of Poole Creek and if it is still considered a cold-water creek. He noted that he has seen large amounts of litter in Poole Creek. M. Okum responded that there are indicators that Poole Creek is still a cold-water creek. MVCA staff are in the process of analysing 2024 temperature logger data and City Stream Watch results, with a report to be completed later this year. She noted that during the UnSmoke Canada litter removal event, large amounts of litter were removed from Poole Creek including construction debris.

3. Watershed Update, Report 3448/24, Jennifer North.

J. North recapped conditions from the end of 2023 until present. She highlighted the above average rain and higher flows seen throughout the watershed. Water safety bulletins were released in February, March, April, June, July and August regarding unsafe conditions and higher than normal flows. She reviewed significant spring and summer peak water levels throughout the system related to rainfall. She noted that the system has functioned as intended, reducing flooding impacts to the watershed. She reviewed the fall lake drawdown schedule.

4. GM Update, Report 3449/24, Sally McIntyre.

S. McIntyre presented the GM update. She highlighted the receipt of updated Agreement of Purchase & Sale of the K&P Trail from the three counties, with an appended Lease Agreement that would apply to the trail while land ownership issues are being resolved. She noted that under the new legislation, any lease agreements exceeding 5-years in duration must be approved by the Minister. She highlighted the renewal of Morris Island Conservation Area License of Occupancy for a 10-year period with the City of Ottawa. She highlighted Microsoft's discontinuation of support of Windows 10 by October 14, 2025 and the need to invest in new hardware.

M. Souter asked about the significance of the new regulation regarding lease agreements. S. McIntyre explained that this change falls under Ontario Regulation 686/21. She believes that the Province wants to ensure that Conservation Authorities are managing land assets appropriately.

R. Kidd asked if another organization leased MVCA-owned land if it would also fall under the regulation. S. McIntyre said that she believes the rule applies whether MVCA leases land to or from another organization/entity it would fall under the regulation, but that that she would confirm whether all types of lease agreements exceeding 5-years fall under the regulation.

5. Job Evaluation & Implementation Plan, Report 3439/24, Sally McIntyre.

6. Salary Review, Report 3440/24, Sally McIntyre & Stacy Millard.

Items 5 and 6 were considered together, in camera. P. Kehoe noted that Joanne Glaser from Cornerstones Management Solutions Ltd. will consult with the Board.

**BOD24/10/21 - 3**

**MOVED BY: M. Souter**

**SECONDED BY: J. Mason**

**Resolved, That the committee move to in-camera session for discussions of the following matter:**

- **Labour relations or employee negotiations**

**And further resolved, that Sally McIntyre and Joanne Glaser remain in the room.**

**“CARRIED”**

**BOD24/10/21 - 4**

**MOVED BY: J. Atkinson**

**SECONDED BY: M. Souter**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors move out of in-camera discussions.**

**“CARRIED”**

**BOD24/10/21 - 5**

**MOVED BY: J. Atkinson**

**SECONDED BY: J. Mason**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the changes in job ratings as recommended and further resolved that the Board of Directors appoint the Executive Committee to review management compensation.**

**“CARRIED”**

7. **Proposed Budget Assumptions, Report 3442/24, Stacy Millard.**

S. McIntyre reviewed the budget process and MVCA’s approach to establishing the municipal levy envelop and building the annual budget. She reviewed the Workforce Plan adjustment amount that has been in place since 2021. She explained that the Board approved investments in the workforce in 2021 that could not be accommodated by a municipal levy increase and that were paid using the operating reserve. Those costs are being phased onto the levy over time. The residual net pressure for 2025 is \$129,327 (based upon one position being deemed redundant.) It is recommended that 50% be phased onto the municipal levy in 2025 and the

balance onto the levy in 2026. She reviewed the recommended assumptions and levy impacts by municipality.

M. Souter asked if the recommended assumptions are parameters for MVCA to work within when developing the budget to fit project needs. S. McIntyre confirmed and explained that the recommended assumptions are referred to as the municipal levy funding envelope.

**BOD24/10/21 – 6**

**MOVED BY: D. Comley**

**SECONDED BY: G. Gower**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors direct staff to develop the 2025 budget and related documents in accordance with the following parameters:**

- 1. An increase of 2.9% plus assessment growth to the Operating Levy;**
- 2. An increase of 8.5% plus assessment growth to the Capital Levy;**
- 3. An assumed assessment growth rate of 1.5%;**
- 4. A cost of living increase to the 2025 Pay Scale of 2.0%; and**
- 5. Transfer \$64,664 onto the Municipal Levy for Workforce Plan Adjustments.**

**“CARRIED”**

8. Draft Land Conservation and Resource Strategy, Report 3445/24, Sally McIntyre.

S. McIntyre reviewed process used to develop the draft Land Conservation & Resource Strategy including public consultation regarding the Discussion Paper and the recreational facilities survey. She highlighted that the most valued features by survey respondents at their top hiking sites can be found at MVCA’s conservation areas. She reviewed the programs and services that MVCA provides, their key goals and objectives within each program area. She highlighted her use of the term *conservation area-type parkland* and explained that this is referring to properties that have similar features/attributes to a conservation area but are not necessarily owned by MVCA.

J. Mason expressed concern that MVCA is going outside it’s mandate with some objectives related to land acquisition and conservation preserves and conservation areas. She commented that it is not MVCA’s responsibility to fill recreation gaps. She commented that the objectives are setting expectations among others that MVCA plans to acquire property to meet objectives. She commented that organizations such as Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust and Ducks Unlimited Canada are better set up to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes. S. McIntyre clarified that the regulation requires that MVCA consider the assets within the watershed as a whole and to determine the needs of the area and how MVCA fits in.

She stated that member municipalities and the counties have not conducted an analysis of large parks available to residents at this scale.

P. Kehoe commented that the LC&RS policies regarding these lands are not binding to the MVCA Board or future Boards. He noted that objectives are worded in a way that they are considerations to keep in mind but not prescriptive. He added that regulations may change in the future that will affect MVCA's mandate.

J. Mason commented that the most acceptable way to approach the recreational needs of the watershed is to work with organizations that are set up to manage and conservation area-type parklands.

B. Holmes expressed concerns that MVCA is taking on too much. She asked if the LC&RS could have a statement that highlights the partnering with organizations to within the watershed to meet objectives. S. McIntyre responded that the language would be amended in the next draft version of the document to clarify.

P. Kehoe suggested a definition of *conservation area-type parkland* could be added.

R. Kidd expressed concern regarding the expectations the document will set with the public. He commented that more information is needed to clarify that land acquisition is dependent on funding and available opportunities. S. McIntyre responded that she will amend the executive summary within the LC&RS to capture the changes discussed. She asked the Board if a statement should be added that MVCA would be willing to support other organizations in an operational sense in regards to *conservation area-type parklands*.

B. Holmes expressed concerns that MVCA does not have the funds or staff time to support other organizations in this way. P. Kehoe suggested that support could be offered on a cost-recovery basis to offset funding needs. M. Souter commented that the term *supporting* needs amending to co-operating with/partnering with. J. Mason added that the amendments need to clarify that MVCA will only partner/co-operate/support other organizations when it is financially viable.

M. Souter asked for a definition of *sterilization* as it relates to undevelopable land. S. McIntyre explained that in the 1990s, MVCA took advantage of a federal funding program to purchase lands in Cedardale that are within the floodplain to ensure development could not take place in the area; the lands were *sterilized* to prevent any future development within the floodplain.

S. McIntyre reviewed next steps to complete the LC&RS. P. Kehoe commended S. McIntyre and the MVCA team for the work that went into the development of the LC&RS.



**BOD24/10/21 – 7**

**MOVED BY: B. Holmes**

**SECONDED BY: R. Huetl**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors receive the Draft Land Conservation & Resource Strategy.**

**“CARRIED”**

9. Education Program Review, Report 3451/24, Scott Lawryk.

S. Lawryk presented the education program review including analysis conducted by Bill Elgie and report recommendations. He presented the proposed 2025 education program plan and budget targets. He noted that the summer camp program is projected to operate on a full cost-recovery basis.

B. Holmes asked if the field trips mentioned in the 2025 plan would include trips to the Mill of Kintail museum. S. Lawryk responded that the field trip plan details have not been fully developed and that museum visits could be included. B. Holmes commented that field trips are an opportunity to educate the community on the programs that MVCA offers and operates.

B. Holmes asked if the FTE position is permanent, part-time or temporary. S. Lawryk responded that based on the program, the hope is that the position would be a 1-year contract. B. Holmes asked if there are available funds for the education program position. S. Lawryk responded that the current funding support for the education program comes from the \$20,000 set aside in the Category 3 MOUs. The long-term goal of the program is to have full cost-recovery by the end of Year 4 of the agreements. He noted that there are plans to include additional educational programming for adults

R. Kidd asked if there is a rental charge associated with the summer camp program and for the major costs that are being recovered. S. Lawryk responded that facility costs have not yet been incorporated into the education program budget. The major cost being recovered from the program is labour-related, including a program coordinator and support staff.

R. Kidd asked what the cost for a session of summer camp is. S. Lawryk responded that in 2023 a full week was \$250 and a short week was \$200. For 2024, the suggested fees are \$260 for a full week and \$210 for a short week. R. Kidd asked if summer students are hired for the summer camp program. S. Lawryk stated counsellor positions are open to anyone with an interest in applying, not just students and that MVCA aims to have a ratio of 1 camp counsellor per 8 campers for larger programs and 1:6 for smaller programs.

**BOD24/10/21 – 8**

**MOVED BY: J. Atkinson**

**SECONDED BY: B. Holmes**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve reinstatement of a Nature Education Program in 2025.**

**“CARRIED”**

10. **MVCA Asset Management Plan, Report 3450/24, Juraj Cunderlik.**

Juraj Cunderlik reviewed the *Asset Management Plan* (AMP) goals and objectives. He outlined the contents of the AMP. He noted that in the future, the plan is to add more chapters for other MVCA assets including conservation areas and vehicles. He reviewed the water and erosion control infrastructure (WECI) asset inventory, operational objectives and considerations, and external considerations such as federal and provincial standards and guidelines for dam owners. He presented the proposed levels of service for MVCA’s WECI assets and the criteria descriptions and the classifications for each water control structure. He reviewed the AMP implementation plan.

**BOD24/10/21 - 9**

**MOVED BY: J. Mason**

**SECONDED BY: M. Souter**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve the *Asset Management Plan* attached to report 3450/24.**

**“CARRIED”**

11. **Fee Schedule Update, Report 3452/24, Stacy Millard.**

S. McIntyre explained that the province imposed a freeze on planning and regulation fees in 20223 and 2024, and that it is unknown whether the freeze will extend to 2025. The updated fees being tabled are not planning and regulations related. Planning and regulation related fees will be tabled with the Board in December and take effect if the province does not extend the freeze into 2025.

S. McIntyre presented the proposed updates to schedules D and E of MVCA’s Fee Schedule. Schedule D is related to Conservation Areas, rentals, programs and administration; and Schedule E is related to stewardship services. She highlighted that in schedule D, under Information and Professional Services, the Field Crew (2 staff) plus mileage rate of \$85/hour is

related to enable cost recovery for providing conservation area type services to other organizations.

**BOD24/10/21 – 10**

**MOVED BY: C. Kelsey**

**SECONDED BY: R. Huetl**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors approve Schedules D and E of 2025 Fee Schedule as set out in report 3452/24.**

**“CARRIED”**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

12. Receipt of Draft Minutes:

- a. Finance and Administration Advisory Committee Meeting, September 30, 2024.
- b. Policy and Planning Advisory Committee Meeting, October 7, 2024.

For information.

13. Staff Compensatory Benefits, Report 3441/24, Stacy Millard.

For information.

14. Appointment of 2024 Auditor, Report 3443/24, Stacy Millard.

**BOD24/10/21 – 11**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors appoint the firm Baker Tilley REO as the Authority’s Auditor for the year 2024.**

**“CARRIED”**

**Adopted by consent agenda**

15. LC&RS Community Surveys & Recreational Findings, Report 3444/24, Sally McIntyre.

For information.

16. Portage Routes: History and Use, Report 3446/24, Alex Broadbent.

For information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**BOD24/10/21 - 12**

**MOVED BY: A. Vereyken**

**SECONDED BY: H. Yanch**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.**

**“CARRIED”**

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

K. Hollington, Recording Secretary

DRAFT



**MINUTES**

Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom  
and at MVCA Office

Board of Directors Meeting

September 9, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Paul Kehoe, Chair  
Jeff Atkinson, Vice Chair  
Bev Holmes  
Cathy Curry (Virtual)  
Clarke Kelly (Virtual)  
Dena Comley  
Glen Gower  
Janet Mason  
Mary Lou Souter  
Steven Lewis  
Taylor Popkie

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Helen Yanch  
Roy Huetl  
Allan Hubley  
Allison Vereyken  
Cindy Kelsey  
Richard Kidd

**STAFF PRESENT**

Sally McIntyre, General Manager  
Juraj Cunderlik, Director of Engineering  
Matt Craig, Manager of Planning and Regulations  
Stacy Millard, Treasurer  
Scott Lawryk, Properties Manager  
Alex Broadbent, Manager of IC&T  
Kelly Hollington, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

RoxAnne Darling, Community Engagement Officer,  
Ginawaydaganuc Village

**VIRTUAL GUESTS**

Lyne Trahan, Senior Advisory (Volunteer), Ginawaydaganuc Village  
Karen Bisson, Executive Director/Treasurer/Operations Advisory,  
Ginawaydaganuc Village  
Marthe & Glen Bucci

P. Kehoe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Declarations of Interest (Written)

Members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest and informed that they may declare a conflict at any time during the session. No declarations were received.

Agenda Review

P. Kehoe noted no additions to the agenda were received.

**BOD24/09/09 - 1**

**MOVED BY: M. Souter**

**SECONDED BY: D. Comley**

**Resolved, that the agenda for the September 9, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented.**

**“CARRIED”**

**MAIN BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting, July 8, 2024.

P. Kehoe asked members if there were any comments or additions to the minutes. No comments were received. S. McIntyre noted that an amendment to the minutes was circulated to board members via email: Item #2: Employee Presentation: Enforcement Activity Update (Will Ernewein) “...MVCA is on par with other CAs with an average of 2-5 charges a year and roughly ~~100~~ 700 inquiries.”.

**BOD24/09/09 - 2**

**MOVED BY: J. Mason**

**SECONDED BY: M. Souter**

**Resolved, that the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on July 8, 2024 be received and approved as amended.**

**“CARRIED”**

2. Delegation Presentation: Ginawaydaganuc Village, Roxanne Darling.

Roxanne Darling, Community Engagement Officer, from Ginawaydaganuc Village introduced herself to the board, and highlighted her membership with the MVCA board from 2018-2022. She noted the virtual attendance of Ginawaydaganuc Village board of Directors and Staff members, Lyne Trahan and Karen Bisson. She explained that the Land Acknowledgement speech that Jeff Atkinson provided at the September 2021 board of Directors meeting left a lasting impression,

she requested that he provide the same speech to open her presentation. J. Atkinson read the Land Acknowledgement statement he delivered at the board meeting that preceded the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

R. Darling outlined the Ginawaydaganuc Village (GV) project, an Indigenous-led, multi-purpose eco-cultural-education centre and tourist destination planned for Algonquin territory near Almonte. She reviewed accomplishments since their establishment in 2022 and identified an opportunity to partner with MVCA. Her presentation was closed with a video recording of comments from Elder John Henri Commanda. He highlighted the importance of fostering relationships and reconciliation.

R. Darling recommended that the board pass a motion to explore a mutually beneficial partnership with GV and the possibility of a sub-committee including staff, board members and representatives from GV.

J. Mason asked if GV is working with any municipalities or other organizations on this project.

R. Darling responded that they have been coordinating with Mississippi Mills and Mayor Lowry. She noted that GV is looking for land in Mississippi Mills to establish their centre. MVCA is the first organization that they have approached. She explained that presentations are planned with Lanark County and other local municipalities.

P. Kehoe thanked R. Darling for her presentation. He explained that the information presented will be reviewed and tabled at a future board of directors meeting. P. Kehoe asked S. McIntyre to follow up on the GV presentation.

### 3. GM Update, Report 3433/24, Sally McIntyre.

S. McIntyre presented the GM Update. She updated the board on the ongoing work in preparation of the *Land Conservation Resource Strategy* document, due at the end of 2024. She explained that public consultation has been ongoing for the summer, including circulation of documents and surveys to all member municipalities and board members. She noted the promotion of the documents and surveys on social media, local news papers, and local libraries.

She highlighted the need for feedback from the board on the future direction of MVCA including programs and services, policies, direction and role. She will be sending the board the documents with a set of questions, drafted specifically for Board members.

Other matters she highlighted from her report included: updated regulation mapping, conservation area capital projects, monitoring system improvements, bathymetric surveys, agricultural projects, shoreline plantings, and the contract with TRCA. She also noted the invitation to the Reconciliation and Thanksgiving Harvest, and the opportunity to attend the 2024 Latornell Conference.

M. Souter asked if there is an extension for comments on the *Land Conservation Resource Strategy* surveys to September 20<sup>th</sup>. S. McIntyre responded that an extension was provided to municipal and county staff and council. She highlighted that she is interested in getting the board member's personal thoughts and unique perspectives on the *Land Conservation and Resource Strategy*. She re-iterated that she will be sending a set of unique questions on key matters to the board.

S. Lewis asked about the survey questions on recreational facilities in regards to managing marinas and the responses on this topic. S. McIntyre responded that there has been little demand for marinas in the feedback received so far. She noted that a demand for campsites/campgrounds and discussion is required on this topic. S. Lewis commented that he attempted to open a campground and that it was cost prohibitive because of permit requirements.

4. 2024 WECl Application Results and Project Awards, Report 3434/24, Juraj Cunderlik.

S. McIntyre explained that the Province changed the funding model for the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) program to a two-year agreement with constraints around using the funding in the same year. MVCA applied for WECl funding to support studies in Year 1 with capital works in Year 2. MVCA was denied approval for Year 1 projects but received approval for Year 2 projects. Without a source of funding for studies, MVCA would not be in a position to complete the associated capital works in Year 2. MVCA pooled funds allocated for the two studies to carry out one of the two studies in 2024 in order to access the Year 2 WECl funding to implement the capital works. S. McIntyre and J. Cunderlik will be coordinating with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on the challenges with the WECl program.

P. Kehoe commented that there is a possibility to meet with the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to discuss the WECl program and the challenges and barriers experienced in the application for funding. He asked the board for their input. M. Souter expressed her approval in meeting with the local MPP. She noted that the mayor of Mississippi Mills has been supported by the local MPP on many advocacy projects. P. Kehoe noted that members of the board nodded in agreement in regards to the opportunity for a meeting with the local MPP. He stated that the findings from this meeting will be tabled with the board in the future.

5. Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA – Preferred Alternative, Report 3435/24, Juraj Cunderlik.

J. Cunderlik presented the Kashwakamak Lake Dam Class EA Preferred Alternative report. He explained that the Kashwakamak Lake Dam EA is a multi-year and multi-million-dollar project. Funding was secured through the Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). Funding is further supplemented by WECl funding on an annual basis. The Environmental Assessment (EA) identified 5 technical solutions/alternatives for the project.



The preferred technical solution is alternative 4--to replace the existing dam at the same location. He explained that this option will enhance existing water management of the lake. The dam will be built according to current dam safety guidelines including consideration of climate change, adding to the dam's resiliency and safety during future storm events. He highlighted that there will be no change in water levels, environment, aquatic habitat, and public or private properties associated with the updated design. Previous studies also recommended replacement of the dam at the same location.

M. Souter asked how dependent this project is on provincial funding to complete future phases. J. Cunderlik responded that the Federal government is funding 40% of the project costs, and WECl is providing an additional 30%. He highlighted that MVCA has been 100% successful in receiving provincial WECl funding for the Kashwakamak Lake Dam project.

S. Lewis asked for the price difference between options 3 and 4. J. Cunderlik responded that option 3, repairing the existing structure, has been explored and repairing the 115-year-old concrete dam is not effective due to high amounts of erosion. Repairing the dam is an extensive and expensive project and would only extend the dam's lifespan by 10 years. Replacement will result in a functioning dam for many years. S. Lewis asked for the cost of option 4. J. Cunderlik responded that project costs for option 4 are estimated at \$6 million.

S. McIntyre asked if J. Cunderlik has a ball-park cost for option 3. J. Cunderlik responded that during a risk assessment study of the dam in 2000, a cost-benefit analysis determined that there was no benefit investing in a repair as it would only extend the life of the dam by 10 years and replacement of the dam would still be required. He estimated the cost to repair at around 50% of the cost to replace. S. McIntyre summarized that the value for money analysis was in favour of alternative 4.

**BOD24/09/09 - 3**

**MOVED BY: J. Atkinson**

**SECONDED BY: G. Gower**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors endorse Alternative 4 as identified through the Class EA process as the preferred approach for replacing the Kashwakamak Lake Dam.**

**"CARRIED"**

6. Summer Nature Camp Program, Report 3436/24, Scott Lawryk.

S. Lawryk presented the Summer Nature Camp Program report. He highlighted the success of the 2024 program and noted that it increased public exposure to the Mill of Kintail site. He commented that Emma Higgins, Camp Program coordinator, was instrumental in the success of the program. He summarized that the program sold out with a wait-list, generated \$34,000 in

revenue and received positive feedback from campers and parents. He reviewed the goals for the 2025 program: higher participation rates, better tailored to suit a range of ages.

G. Gower asked how the 2024 camps program was promoted and if demographics were collected. S. Lawryk responded that the program was advertised on social media including sponsored ads, in local newspapers and using posters at local community spaces. S. Lawryk explained that the demographic information was captured but it has not been analysed at this time. He noted that analysis will consider how far participants are willing to travel.

S. Lewis commented that word will spread in the community about the camps program.

J. Mason commented that a budget and cost-recovery breakdown of the 2025 program should be presented to the board. S. McIntyre responded that the cost projection of \$78,000 for the 2025 program is fully cost-recoverable and the detailed numbers will be presented with the budget. She clarified that approval today would allow for MVCA to add the 2025 program to the budget.

M. Souter commented that Almonte has a large population, there are few summer camps in the area, and that there is room to grow the program. She added that she would like to see the 2025 summer camp program in budget deliberations.

P. Kehoe suggested that the resolution should state that approval of the program is dependent on budget approval.

**BOD24/09/09 - 4**

**MOVED BY: S. Lewis**

**SECONDED BY: T. Popkie**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors authorize renewal of the Summer Nature Camp program at the Mill of Kintail for 2025, budget dependent.**

**“CARRIED”**

7. Land Inventory Update, Report 3437/24, Sally McIntyre.

S. McIntyre outlined updates to the *Land Inventory* report since it was tabled in March, and items still outstanding. She stated that staff update the *Land Inventory Report* to include recent findings and will become a living document that is updated as new information is obtained and conditions change.

J. Mason noted references to *Carp Creek* that require amending to *Carp River*.

8. Financial Update – YTD June 30, 2024, Report 3438/24, Stacy Millard.

S. Millard presented the Financial Update. Year-to-date expenditures are at or below projections and revenues are on track. She explained that projections for compensation were not completed due to a significant number of leaves being replaced by consulting services. She noted the difficulty in projecting consultant costs. Projections show a surplus at the end of 2024 going into Category 2 and 3 operating reserves. She explained that MVCA applied for 10 student grants and did not receive any. Student hiring cannot be conditional upon grant approvals because approval is received after students have started their positions.

M. Souter asked if inquiries were submitted as to why funding was denied. She commented that the local libraries did not receive funding for summer students this year. S. Millard explained that the Member of Parliament has a say in the area of interest or priority for funding. The area of interest for 2024 was not in education or conservation. M. Souter suggested that MVCA contact the member of parliament to ask why funding was denied.

D. Comley commented that the member of parliament will generally identify their area of interest prior to the application date. She noted that 2024 had a focus on helping seniors. Applications can be tailored to suit the areas of interest as they change annually.

P. Kehoe noted that the student grant funding is a federal program and the MPP would be Scott Reid.

9. Auditor Update, Report 3439/24, Stacy Millard

S. Millard presented the Auditor Update report. The recommendation is to withdraw appointment with KPMG for the 2024 audit. She noted that she has reached out to municipalities and other conservation authorities for recommendation of an auditing firm for 2024, and has reached out to several of those firms.

D. Comley noted that the report says 2025 and requires amendment to read 2024.

S. Lewis asked if the firms contacted would be interested in completing the audit for 2024. S. Millard confirmed. S. Lewis expressed his dislike toward KPMG as an auditing firm. C. Curry expressed her concern regarding comments directed at KPMG. She commented that KPMG is a reputable firm and has had good experiences with them in the past at many organizations. S. Lewis apologized to C. Curry for his comments. He commented that KPMG may work better with larger organizations. P. Kehoe agreed that KPMG may work well for large organizations. He noted that in his experience, it does not go as well for smaller organizations. C. Curry added

that comments regarding the firm as a whole are not warranted when experience with a particular auditor within the organization has been negative.

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**MOVED BY: S. Lewis**

**SECONDED BY: J. Mason**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors withdraw appointment of KPMG for the 2024 Financial Audit.**

**“CARRIED”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**MOVED BY: D. Comley**

**SECONDED BY: S. Lewis**

**Resolved, That the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.**

**“CARRIED”**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

K. Hollington, Recording Secretary