

**COMMUNICATION 131092**

Received from       Stacey Blair, Town Clerk  
Addressed to       Committee of the Whole  
Date                 August 11, 2020  
Topic                Funding of Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure

**SUMMARY**

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) has requested a motion of support from the Council of the Town of Carleton Place regarding the future funding of flood control infrastructure. The MVCA has already sent a letter regarding this matter to Minister Yakabuski, however, additional support from area municipalities is also being sought to show solidarity.

**BACKGROUND**

The MVCA has states that current provincial funding of water and erosion control infrastructure needs to be increased to protect the people and economy of this area's watershed; and is requesting that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry address this short-fall in funding.

The existing annual funding envelope was originally established in 2003 and does not meet current demands.

**COMMENT**

The MVCA has provided a draft motion of support that they are requesting member municipalities to endorse this request.

**RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS the province reaffirmed its commitment to "continue its cost share funding arrangement with municipalities to support high priority repairs to conservation authority infrastructure" in its March 2020 *Ontario Flooding Strategy*; and

WHEREAS the province allocated \$5 million annually for this purpose in 2003 and has not increased or indexed the funding envelop in 17 years; and

WHEREAS demand for replacement and upgrade of water and erosion control assets is ever increasing due to aging infrastructure and the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS critical infrastructure within the Mississippi Valley watershed that serves this municipality did not receive funding this year and there are no guarantees that it will in the foreseeable future based upon current program demand; and

WHEREAS should funding not be received from the province for these and other MVCA capital projects the burden of those costs will fall in part to this municipality;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the CAO be directed to draft a letter on behalf of Council for submission to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing supporting the letter from the MVCA and requesting that funding of the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program be significantly increased and that program rules be adjusted to allow for reasonable construction periods and the carry-over of funds between fiscal years.