

COMMUNICATION 132015

Received From: Niki Dwyer, Director of Development Services
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: January 26, 2021
Topic: Municipal Letter of Support – National Disaster Mitigation Program

BACKGROUND

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) is preparing an application to the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) for funding to undertake two projects:

1. LiDAR mapping of the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley and South Nation watersheds (joint application)
2. Watershed Model Project

As part of the application package for the Watershed Modelling Project, the MVCA is requesting letters of support from partnering municipalities as an endorsement of the application. No financial support is requested for the Watershed Model Project.

COMMENT

The Mississippi River watershed does not have a comprehensive forecasting model despite having 15 operable water control structures. The model is the tool into which the MVCA will feed the LiDAR information to prepare flood plain mapping and assess risks in each of the lower-tier municipalities. System modeling will also allow MVCA to design and construct replacement structures that address current conditions and consider the impacts of climate change throughout the watershed—both floods and droughts.

The deadline for NDMP applications is January 28th, 2021.

The Town of Carleton Place does not have any eligible projects to submit to the four-stream funding program at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee direct staff to provide a letter of support to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for its application for National Disaster Mitigation Program funding towards its Mississippi River Flood Forecasting and Warning Model project.

ATTACHMENT

Draft letter of support

DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

January __, 2021

National Disaster Mitigation Program: Mississippi River Flood Forecasting and Warning Model

Dear Minister Blair,

This letter is in support of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority's (MVCA) application to the Government of Canada's National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP.)

The floods of 2017 and 2019 highlighted the need to enhance MVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning Program to improve flood hazard identification and mitigation. The Mississippi River watershed does not have a comprehensive forecasting model despite having 15 operable water control structures. System modeling and risk assessments are essential to ensuring that municipalities have the information they need to make sound land use planning decisions. The model will also allow the Conservation Authority to design and construct replacement structures that address current conditions and consider the impacts of climate change throughout the watershed—both floods and droughts.

The NDMP provides essential funding for the development of watershed models and preparation of mapping that identifies potential areas of flooding during large storm events, and risks to municipal water intakes and receiving water bodies for wastewater collection systems during drought conditions. As such, the proposed model would greatly improve municipal emergency management and aid in building safer and more resilient communities. The proposed watershed model would also enhance MVCA's system operation capabilities, allow for assessment of storage opportunities, and aid in the design of replacement infrastructure.

The knowledge provided by this initiative will allow our council, administration, community and residents to better understand flood risks and employ effective mitigation strategies to reduce the impacts of flooding.

Yours truly,