

THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY
RESOLUTION
Special Council

Resolution

Date: 06/16/2020

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

1. WHEREAS Haldimand County is a member of the Grand River, Long Point Region and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authorities (CAs) and is represented on their Board(s) of Directors;
2. AND WHEREAS the municipally appointed Board of Directors determines the policies, priorities and budget of the CAs;
3. AND WHEREAS Haldimand County has been well served by the Grand River, Long Point Region and Niagara Peninsula CAs;
4. AND WHEREAS the Grand River, Long Point Region and Niagara Peninsula CAs are watershed based organizations providing programs and services that contribute to a safer, sustainable environment and address climate change;
5. AND WHEREAS the CAs have flood management programs employing a watershed-based approach that monitors stream flow, water levels and climatic conditions, forecasts flooding, issues flood warnings, regulates development activities in natural hazards, educates the public about flooding, operates flood management infrastructure, protects natural cover and manages stormwater that helps reduce the impacts of flooding;
6. AND WHEREAS Haldimand County has experienced recent disastrous and unprecedented flooding, with indications that these inundations may constitute the new normal, making the programs of the CAs all the more important;
7. AND WHEREAS the CAs are partners with municipalities in developing the science and policy to manage drinking water source protection;
8. AND WHEREAS the CAs own, manage and operate a valuable network of conservation areas that provide access to green space and family friendly recreation activities for our growing communities, contributes to the local economy, provides jobs for youth and promotes health and wellness for our residents. It also provides outdoor experiential education to local school children and encourages communities to embrace and value our natural and scenic assets;
9. AND WHEREAS the CAs undertake tree planting and landscape restoration and aid landowners to make changes on their properties in support of naturalization or water quality protection within their watersheds;
10. AND WHEREAS the CAs provide Haldimand County with technical expertise in support of its planning and infrastructure delivery, education and health programs;
11. AND WHEREAS CAs are important partners in on-the-ground and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change;

12. AND WHEREAS smaller municipalities like Haldimand County do not have capacity or the financial resource to employ staff with the technical expertise that the CAs provide;
13. AND WHEREAS Haldimand County has service agreements with each CA for planning and other services;
14. AND WHEREAS the CA must be able to charge fees, and derive revenue from its facilities, programs and services as appropriate to reduce the burden to the tax levy;
15. AND WHEREAS the Ontario government has cut 50% from their \$7.4 million Natural Hazards Transfer Payment Grant (Section 39) to Ontario conservation authorities that supports flood and erosion control infrastructure, flood forecasting and warning, watershed planning projects and technical studies, and the new act has the effect of downloading additional responsibilities to the CAs to be paid for by municipalities,
16. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Haldimand County Council requests that the Province restore or improve their funding of Conservation Authorities (CAs) to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent any downloading of costs to municipalities and allow maintenance of hazard programs;
17. AND THAT the Province ensures that the programs and services of the CAs maintain their watershed focus and allow for the flexibility of including programs and services important to local circumstances;
18. AND THAT the Province includes experts from CAs, staff of the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry, Environment Conservation and Parks, as well as Municipal Affairs and Housing and municipalities when developing the draft regulations;
19. AND THAT the Province not dictate the form, content or duration of the Memorandums of Understanding or agreements, allowing for municipalities to support non-mandatory programs in a manner that suits local circumstances;
20. AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier; the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks; the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the local MPP; the Grand River, Long Point Region and Niagara Peninsula CAs; Conservation Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

DEFEATED ON A TIED VOTE

DEFEATED