



February 24, 2021

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RE: DELEGATION REQUEST

At a meeting of the Essex Region Conservation Authority' Board of Directors on February 18, 2021, the Draft 2021 Budget was approved for distribution to municipalities; and to provide notice that a weighted vote will be held at the Board of Directors' meeting on April 8, 2021. Ontario Regulation 139/96 (as amended by O.R. 231/97) requires that affected municipal partners receive a minimum 30-day notice for which a meeting where a weighted and recorded vote will be taken, regarding non-matching levies. The Regulation also requires that the notice be accompanied by the financial information used to determine that levy. This notice, along with ERCA's report to the Board, with appendices, and a 2021 Draft Budget Companion was circulated to municipal clerks for distribution to members of Council on Monday, February 22, 2021.

As described in the Draft 2021 Budget, the budget totals \$10,026,284 and includes a total levy contribution from member municipalities of approximately \$3,454,619, representing a total increase in levy of 2.0%. This levy equates to \$10.75 for every person in our watershed, based on data compiled by MPAC and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and municipal levies account for slightly less than 50% of the funding for the ongoing programs of the Authority.

The purpose of the delegation is to explain the recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, which have widespread and significant implications for operations and program delivery in 2022, due to the provincially-required bifurcation of services into mandatory and non-mandatory categories and resulting changes to the existing funding model. Representatives from Administration will highlight key points of the budget and demonstrate how it responds to provincial direction and objectives including: increased transparency to municipal funders; identification of mandatory and non-mandatory services and reallocation of municipal levies to core mandated responsibilities, as described in the Conservation Authorities Act.

For reference, are links to [ERCA's 2020 Annual Report](#) and [2020 Annual Report Video](#) presented at our Annual General Meeting that highlight some of the work undertaken by ERCA in our community.

Should you have any questions regarding our budget, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Tim Byrne
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Shelley McMullen
Interim CFO/Director, Finance and Corporate Services