

Date: November 28, 2025
Resolution No. #115/25

Moved By: Michael Palleschi
Seconded By: Fred Nix

#115/25

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has posted Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #025-1257 proposing the consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into 7 Regional Conservation Authorities; and

WHEREAS the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority would consolidate Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) with Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, resulting in significant changes to governance, service delivery, financial structures, land management, and municipal oversight; and

WHEREAS CVC staff have undertaken a preliminary review and analysis of the proposed consolidation, including governance, operational, financial, and watershed impacts, and have prepared a response outlining CVC's concerns, risks, and recommendations; and

WHEREAS the proposed consolidation raises substantial risks related to local decision-making authority, municipal representation, transition funding, asset ownership, alignment with other provincial reforms, and the protection of local programs, community services, and public greenspace; and

WHEREAS CVC is a high-performing Conservation Authority with established excellence in regulatory compliance, watershed science, digital modernization, municipal partnership, and service delivery, and therefore any provincial restructuring must protect and build upon these strengths; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of CVC's watershed communities, municipal partners, and Board of Directors that CVC's submission to the ERO reflect clear, evidence-based analysis and fully communicate the governance, financial, operational, and environmental implications of the proposal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors approves Credit Valley Conservation's submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario in response to Posting #025-1257, Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities; and

THAT the Board directs staff to submit the approved response to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) prior to the consultation deadline; and

THAT the Board further directs staff to provide the final ERO submission to all Credit Valley Watershed municipal partners for their information and to continue to coordinate with neighbouring Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario on matters of shared impact; and

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THAT the Board affirms that any provincial restructuring of Conservation Authorities must:

- Preserve meaningful municipal governance and local decision-making;
- Protect CA land ownership and public access to greenspace;
- Provide full provincial funding for RCA transition costs and for the operational costs of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency;
- Maintain uninterrupted delivery of critical watershed and public safety functions; and
- Recognize and safeguard the performance and capacity of high-functioning, high-performing Conservation Authorities such as CVC.

AND THAT the Board requests that the province fully assesses governance, financial, operational, and land implications of the proposed consolidation and consider whether modernization objectives can be achieved through strengthened provincial coordination and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency without amalgamation; and

THAT the Board requests direct engagement by the province with CVC, its municipalities, and other affected conservation authorities before any final consolidation decisions or legislative amendments are made; and

THAT this resolution, accompanied by a letter from the Chair, be forwarded to:

- Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations;
- Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and opposition critics;
- Local Members of Provincial Parliament;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Conservation Ontario;
- All local municipalities within the Credit Valley Watershed; and
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution and the approved submission be included in the official record of the Board

Original signed Michael Palleschi, Chair CVC Board of Directors

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED