



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	January 21, 2020
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Apportionment of Conservation Authority Levies (FCS20011) (City Wide) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Simone Patel (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3626 Tom Hewitson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4159
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  <b>SIGNATURE:</b>	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

At its meeting of May 1, 2019, Council approved item 10.5 of the General Issues Committee Report 19-009, which reads as follows:

- (i) Conservation Authorities Act Review (LS15027(d)) (City Wide) (Item 10.5)  
**(Eisenberger/Clark)**

That staff prepare a Report back to the General Issues Committee on how Conservation Authority Levies are apportioned in other Ontario Jurisdictions either on a Watershed Basis or on a full Municipality Basis.

## INFORMATION

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Regulation 670/00, the net expenditures of the Conservation Authorities are to be allocated to the underlying municipalities based either on an agreement or per the formula prescribed under the regulations.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The formula, prescribed in Regulation 670/00, is the ratio of each participating municipality's modified assessment to the total authority's modified assessment.

The net operating budget or levy of the Conservation Authorities within the City of Hamilton was allocated based on agreement until 2014. For 2015 and beyond, the apportionment of the municipal levies of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has been based on formula. For 2018 and beyond, the apportionment of the municipal levies of the other Conservation Authorities (i.e. Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton and Hamilton Conservation Authority) has been allocated based on formula.

In May 2019, the Province announced potential changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Schedule 2 of Bill 108, *More Homes More Choice Act*. As of the time of writing of Report FCS20011, potential changes affecting the *Conservation Authorities Act* have not been enacted.

In July 2019, staff conducted a survey to determine current practices followed by the Conservation Authorities across the Province. Conservation Authorities were asked to advise whether the methodology for determining the municipal levy payable by each supporting municipality is:

- (a) by agreement among the authority and the participating municipalities; or
- (b) by calculating the ratio that each participating municipality's modified assessment bears to the total authority's modified assessment.

### **Survey Results**

There were 32 Conservation Authorities contacted in total and 21 Conservation Authorities responded. Out of the 21 Conservation Authorities who responded to the survey, 20 advised that the determination for the apportionment of levies is per formula and one per agreement. The survey summary by Region is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Survey of Conservation Authorities**

Region	Response Received	No Response Received	Per Formula	Per Agreement
Central Ontario	6	2	6	
Eastern Ontario	4	4	4	
Northern Ontario	4	1	3	1
Southern Ontario	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>

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Full details of the survey are attached in Appendix “A” – Conservation Authorities in Ontario – Methodology for Determination of Municipal Levy Payable by Supporting Municipalities to Report FCS20011.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” to Report FCS20011 – Conservation Authorities in Ontario – Methodology for Determination of Municipal Levy Payable by Supporting Municipalities

SP/dt