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Kirsten Corrigan
Director
Conservation and Source Protection Branch
Land and Water Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
14th Floor, 40 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON
M4Y 1M2

December 24, 2021

Dear Ms. Corrigan:

RE: Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Transition Plan Submission

Pursuant to Section 3 of Ontario Regulation 687/21 (Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act) under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority hereby submits its Transition Plan for efforts to take place through to January 31, 2024.

This Transition Plan was approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on Thursday, December 16, 2021.

Best regards,

Jennifer Stephens
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

js/

cc: CAOs/Clerks – SVCA Watershed Member Municipalities
Board of Directors, SVCA



Watershed Member Municipalities
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington North, Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey



TRANSITION PLAN

TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ONTARIO REGULATION 687/21

December 16, 2022



BACKGROUND

On October 7, 2021, the Government of Ontario posted a Decision Notice on the Environment Registry of Ontario regarding [Regulatory proposals \(Phase 1\) under the *Conservation Authorities Act*](#). The purpose of this Notice was to announce new regulations which had been finalized to focus conservation authorities on their core mandate by prescribing mandatory programs and services they must provide, giving municipalities greater control over what conservation authority programs and services they will fund, and consolidating “Conservation Areas” regulations. Two regulations are directly related to the completion of this Transition Plan.

- Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services
- Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services

ONTARIO REGULATION 686/21: MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This regulation prescribes the mandatory programs and services conservation authorities would be required to provide, including core watershed-based resource management strategies. This regulation will come into effect on January 1, 2022.

ONTARIO REGULATION 687/21: TRANSITION PLANS AND AGREEMENTS FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This regulation requires each conservation authority to have a ‘transition plan’ that would outline the steps to be taken to develop an inventory of programs and services and to enter into agreements with participating municipalities to fund non-mandatory programs and services through a municipal levy. It also establishes the transition period to enter into those agreements. This regulation came into effect on October 1, 2021.

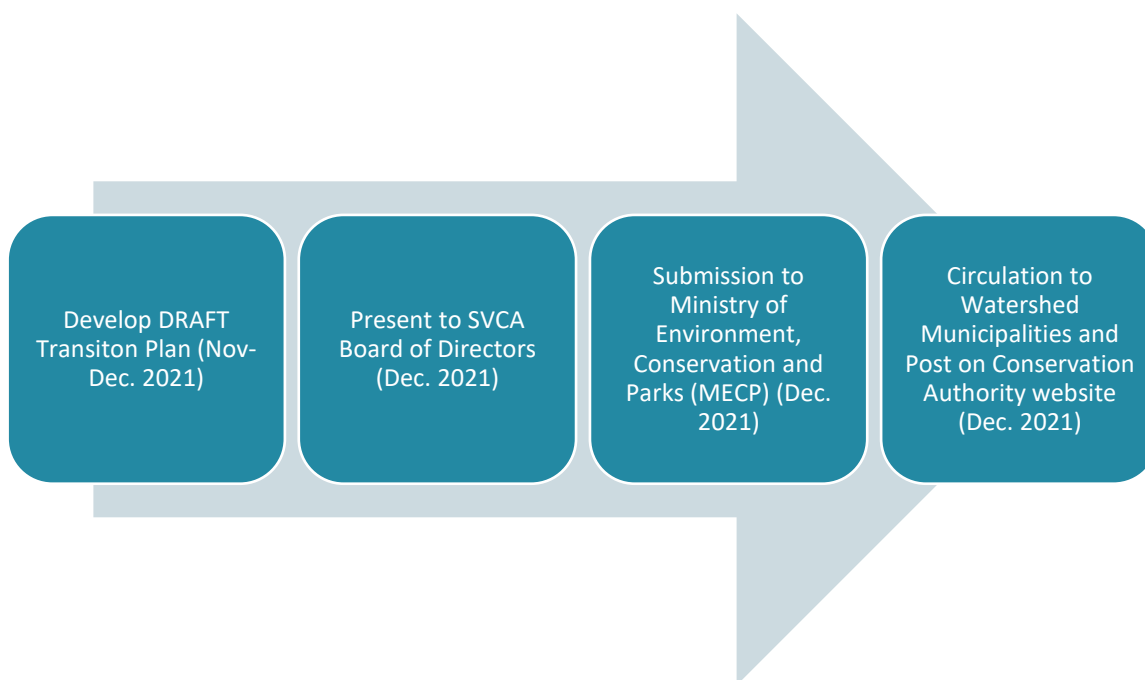
TRANSITION PLAN PERIOD AND CONTENTS

This Transition Plan covers two periods. The first period extends from October 7, 2021, to February 28, 2022, at which time an inventory of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority’s programs and services will be completed and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as well as watershed municipalities. This inventory must outline steps to be taken to enter into agreement(s) with participating municipalities for the use of municipal levies for non-mandatory programs and services the conservation authority determines are advisable in its jurisdiction by January 1, 2024.

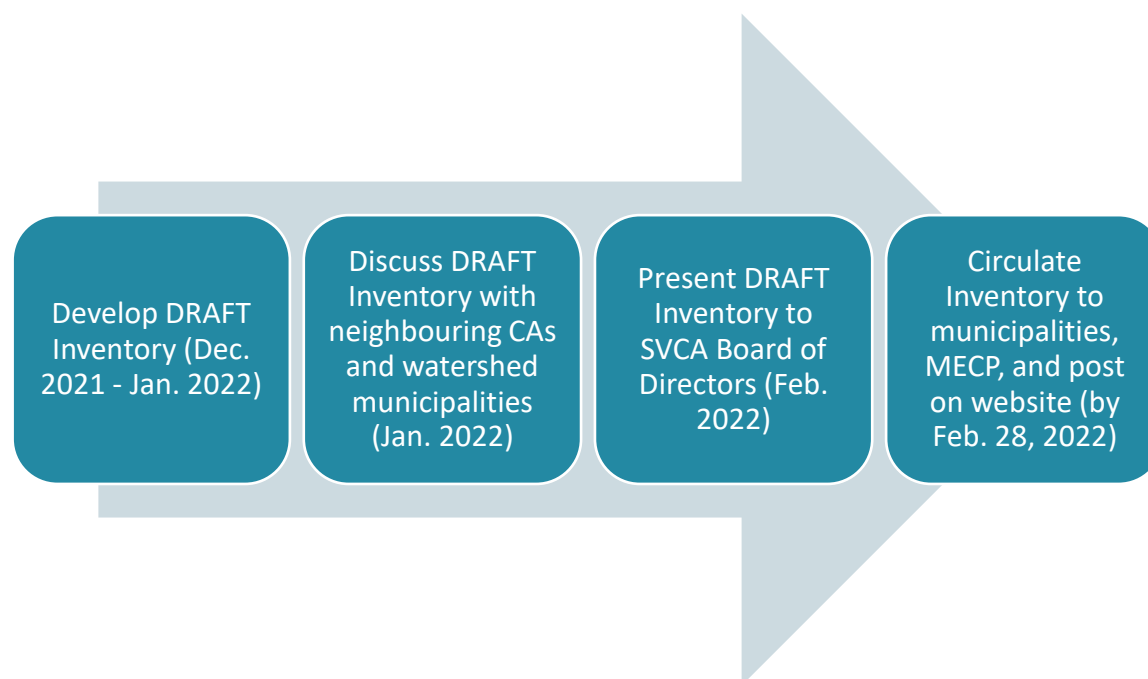
The second period extends from March 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023. During this period, the steps required to enter into agreement(s) with participating municipalities for use of municipal levies for non-mandatory programs and services the conservation authority determines are advisable will be carried out.

The Transition Plan will include a workplan and timeline to complete the agreement(s) with participating municipalities but will also include consultation steps necessary to ensure that municipal partners are actively engaged in discussions associated with the future of 'other' programs and services at Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

PHASE 1: PREPARATION OF TRANSITION PLAN



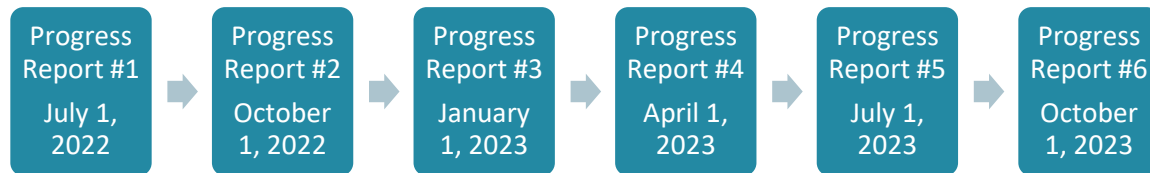
PHASE 2: PREPARATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES INVENTORY



PHASE 3: PREPARATION OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) / AGREEMENTS

Task	Timeline
Consult with municipalities on inventory	March – May 2022
Draft MOU/Agreements for ‘other programs and services’ requiring levy	June 2022 – May 2023
Draft 2024 financial scenario	
Allocate levy into mandatory and non-mandatory service areas	
Estimate cost apportionment for inclusion in draft MOU/Agreements	
Consult with Board of Directors and municipalities on draft MOU/Agreements	
Execute MOU/Agreements	June – Sept. 2023
Develop Draft 2024 Budget	
Revise and finalize programs and services inventory	September 2023
Board of Directors approves draft 2024 budget for circulation to municipalities	October 2023
Board of Directors approves 2024 budget	December 2023
MOU/Agreements submitted to Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	January 31, 2024
Submit final version of inventory to municipalities, MECP, and post on website	

MANDATORY PROGRESS REPORTS TO MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS



COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Critical to the success of this transition plan is communication and consultation with several instrumental stakeholder groups including municipalities (staff and elected officials), the public, neighbouring conservation authorities and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors. To make certain that these stakeholder groups stay engaged frequent means of communication will be necessary. Methods of communication that are expected to be employed as this transition plan is being implemented are depicted below.

