

Conservation Authorities Core Service Review – Options

PLAN2018-055

June 19, 2018

Core Service Review



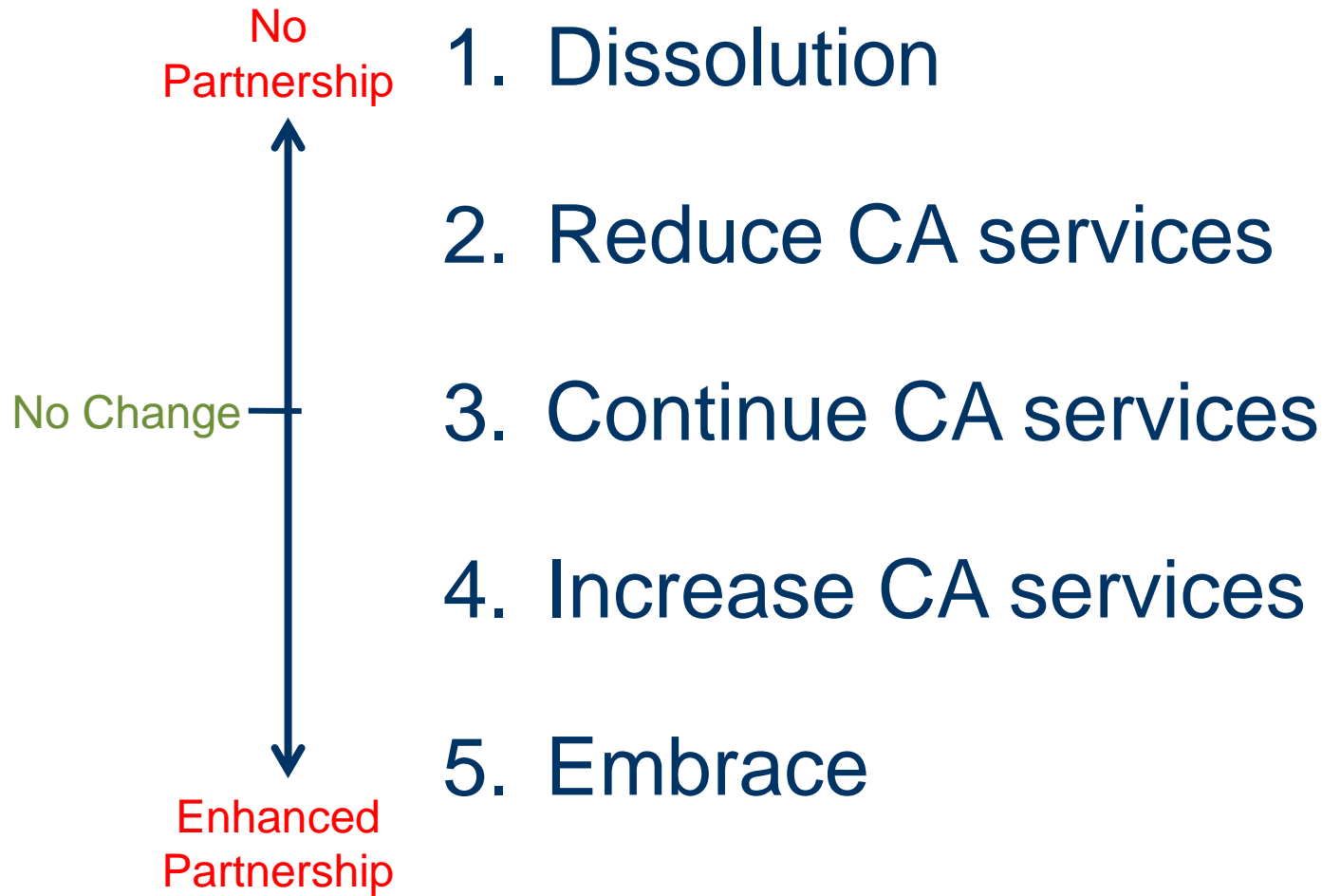
Overview

- Recap of the first Council presentation
- List of Options:
 1. Dissolution
 2. Reduce CA services
 3. Continue CA services
 4. Increase CA services
 5. Embrace
- Recommendation

Recap

- March 27, 2018 Council Meeting:
 - CA Act clarifies three programs and services CA's are required or permitted to provide
 - The City receives its environmental planning services from 4 CA's
 - CA's revenue is made up of self-generated revenue (including donations and grants), municipal levies (cost-share), and provincial funding
 - The City's levy apportionment is about 60% of the total municipal levy
 - Next step is to look at options for the future relationship with the CA's

List of Options



Option 1 - Dissolution



Ken Reid Conservation Area

Option 1 - Dissolution

- Dissolve one or more CA's that have jurisdiction within the City
- Dissolution process (s. 13.1 of the CA Act):
 - Council resolution by 2 or more municipalities
 - A public meeting
 - Vote – 2/3 of the members of CA must vote in favour of dissolution
 - All municipalities prepare a business continuity plan
 - Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGC) makes a decision



Option 1 - Dissolution

- Dissolution of KRCA was considered before
 - February 11, 1999 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors (public meeting)
 - About 300 people attended
 - 1 vote in favour of dissolution and 19 votes against
- Township of Ramara case:
 - There is no option to “opt out” of CA services (s. 27 of the CA Act)
 - By not paying levies, Ramara was in contravention of the CA Act

Option 1 - Dissolution

- Business continuity plan
 - s. 13.1(6) of the CA Act provides that if the City and other municipalities voted to dissolve the CA, municipalities would have to satisfy MNRF and MOECC that the CA functions and programs could be provided for. For example:
 - Flood control
 - Source water protection
 - Conservation area management
 - The City, therefore, must consider staffing and financial resources for the above services

Option 1 - Dissolution

KRCA services	KRCA staffing (full time employees (FTE))	Cost to KRCA (2017)	Proportionate resourcing that may be applied to the City
Planning and Regulation - Reviewing and regulating proposed development and alteration	5.5 + external services	\$753,600 (user fees)	3 staff + external services, and \$452,160
Flood and Water Level Monitoring - Flood forecasting and response - Ontario Low Water - drought response - Evaluation of flood prone areas - Maintenance of equipment (gauges)	1	\$102,400 (MNRF transfer payment)	0.6 staff and \$61,685
Environmental and Technical Programs - Watershed management - Monitoring services - Information and GIS services	5	\$472,200 (MNRF transfer payment, service fees, grants)	3 staff and \$284,450
Stewardship Program - Incentives for land stewardship, tree planting - Linking community with funding sources	1.5	\$170,900 (grants, product sales)	1 staff and \$102,950
Conservation Education - Programs for schools, seniors, community	0.5	\$65,000 (100% cost recovery - grants and user fees)	0.5 staff and \$65,000 (almost entirely benefits CKL)
Conservation Areas - Ken Reid , Pigeon River and Windy Ridge Conservation Areas; other properties, facility and fleet management	2.5 + seasonal	\$422,800 (grants, user fees, management fees, rent)	2 staff + seasonal and 318,800

Option 1 - Dissolution

KRCA services	KRCA staffing (full time employees (FTE))	Cost to KRCA (2017)	Proportionate resourcing that may be applied to the City
Source Water Protection - Development of Source Protection Plan and supporting information	0.5	\$65,900 (MOECC funding)	0.3 staff and \$39,700
Lake Management Planning - Plan completion and its implementation	2.3	\$317,800 (supplemented through provincial grants)	100% of KRCA staff and costs
Agricultural Drain Classification - Update to Municipal Drain Classification (single year project)	0.5 + seasonal	\$75,000 (CKL)	100% of KRCA staff and costs
Floodplain Mapping - Mapping floodplains of watercourses for protection of person and property further to Provincial Policy Statement	1 + adjacent CA services	\$242,500 (CKL, Federal grant)	100% of KRCA staff and costs
Risk Management Official - Review and issue s.59 Notices (Source Protection) - Threat verification	1 (will be changing to 0.5)	\$115,500 (CKL)	100% of KRCA staff and costs

Option 1 - Dissolution

- Pros
 - The City would gain in-house expertise
 - Potentially shorter commenting timeframes
 - Opportunities for staff and equipment efficiencies
- Cons
 - There is no precedent of a successful dissolution
 - The City does not pay for the total cost of CA services and through dissolution; cost-sharing opportunities, self-generated revenue, provincial grants and donations that make up the CA revenue would not be available
 - Will likely result in cuts to environmental services (less staff = less projects and initiatives accomplished)
 - Loss of CA network that is important for leveraging resources and sharing information
 - A major change to the City's business model

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services



Ken Reid Conservation Area

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services

- Option 2 considers maintaining mandatory programs but looks for efficiencies in other existing CA undertakings
- The City can consider streamlining programs and services that are:
 - outlined in the MOU
 - identified by the CA Board of Directors as “other programs and services”

1. the mandatory programs and services that are required by regulation
2. the municipal programs and services that CA provides on behalf of municipalities under an MOU
3. other programs and services that the City and CA's determine to be common environmental policy objectives

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services

- Programs and services that may be considered in this option:
 1. Bring a service in-house
 - Risk Management Official (RMO) under the *Clean Water Act*
 2. Remove a service from the MOU
 - KRCA comments on development applications outside of their jurisdiction (northern portion of the City)
 3. Cut some of the special projects
 - Lake Management Plans and their implementation
 - Floodplain Mapping Study

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services

1. Bring Risk Management Official (RMO) position in house

- Pros
 - In-house trained and certified expertise
- Cons
 - In 2013, the cost saving associated with an RMO position being in-house was highly contested and Council identified that the RMO position is best suited with KRCA. In 2016, Council carried recommendation to establish RMO permanently with KRCA
 - None of the City staff are certified, whereas KRCA currently has two trained and certified staff, who are also involved in source protection – this is important for providing efficient service and not duplicating efforts
 - KRCA has developed a timely review of applications and issuance of s.59 Notices
 - The City needs to make provisions to support an RMO position that requires a significant amount of time off-site to do site visits, threat verifications, negotiation with non-compliant landowners, etc.

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services

2. Remove from the MOU, the requirement for KRCA to comment on development applications outside of their jurisdiction (northern portion of the City)

- Pros

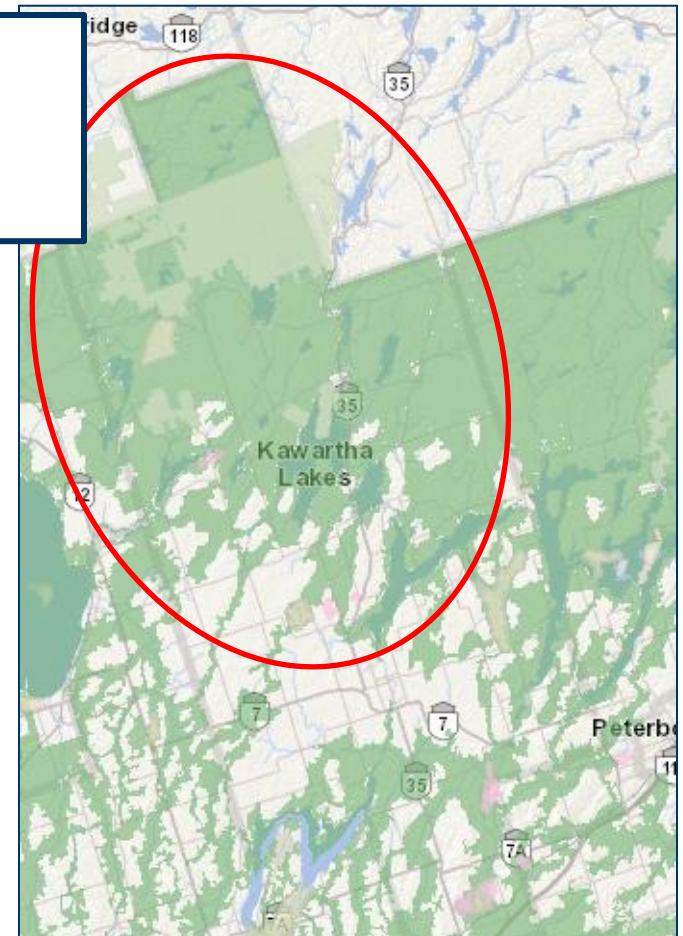
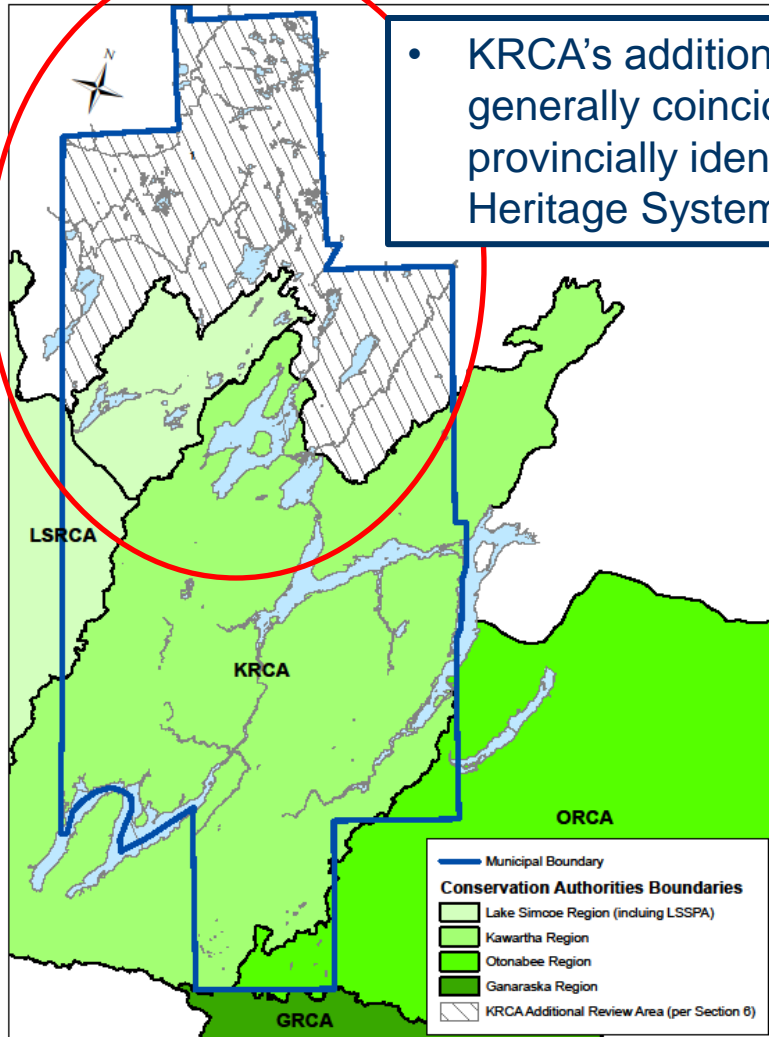
- May result in a shorter process for development proposals in the northern portion of the City
- Reduce public's confusion about KRCA's ability to comment on development outside of their jurisdiction.

- Cons

- Not anticipated to have a large effect on the levy as KRCA processes only between 5 and 18 applications annually for development in the northern portion, in comparison to 350+ applications in the rest of the City
- To effectively resolve environmental matters, the City would need to hire qualified staff and for larger projects, the City would need to retain peer reviewers at an applicant's expense
- CA oversight of the northern portion of the City is increasingly more important due to the provincially identified Natural Heritage System

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services

- KRCA's additional review area generally coincides with the provincially identified Natural Heritage System



Provincially Identified Natural
Heritage System

kawarthalakes.ca

Option 2 – Reduce CA Services

3. Cut some of the special projects

- Lake Management Plans and their implementation
- Floodplain Mapping Study

• Pros

- Special projects can be costly (\$407,100 in 2018)

• Cons

- Special projects are subsidized through provincial grants that would not be available to private sector contractors.
- Onus would be on development proponents to do these studies
- Lake Management Plans and Floodplain Mapping Study results are critical in informing planning policies and development decisions, as well as in protecting health and safety.
 - Lake Management Plans identify a myriad of information on lake health, (including phosphorous loading, E.Coli concentrations and water budget). This is important for protecting water as a drinking source and for recreational activities.
 - The purpose of the Floodplain Mapping Study is to map or update mapping of the floodplain. In the absence of an updated floodplain, the responsibility to map/update the boundaries falls on the development proponents and effective mapping cannot be prepared on a piecemeal basis.

Option 3 – Continue CA Services



Ken Reid Conservation Area

Option 3 – Continue CA Services

- Option 3 makes necessary changes to the MOU to update it, but makes no changes to the relationship with CA's
- Pro
 - Established and familiar order of business for the City and KRCA
- Con
 - Does not address existing concerns with CA's (cost and processing timeframe)

Option 4 - Increase CA Services



Ken Reid Conservation Area

Option 4 - Increase CA Services

- Programs and services that CA's could undertake to better support the City. There may be a need to increase the levy for these services
- Some examples of additional services include:
 1. Comprehensive evaluation / update of features (i.e. significant wildlife areas, wetlands, significant hydrologic features, etc.)
 2. Open data portal to coordinate and manage information requests

Option 4 - Increase CA Services

1. Comprehensive evaluation / update of features (i.e. significant wildlife areas, wetlands, significant hydrologic features, etc.)

- Why is this important?
 - Ground-truthing existing mapped information can be very beneficial for providing preliminary comments to development proponents at the pre-consultation stage
 - Determine significance of unevaluated features

Option 4 - Increase CA Services

2. Open data portal to coordinate and manage information requests

- Why is this important?
 - Allow municipalities to view and access CA data easily (no data licensing agreements)
 - Inform existing City operations, such as flow information for culvert/bridge replacement
 - Another example of how the City could benefit is in coordinating knowledge and resources to address climate change, and meet new legislative and policy requirements
 - KRCA produced a Climate Change Strategy in 2015
 - The City is currently working on a Healthy Environment Plan
 - At the next Official Plan review, Planning staff will be developing/evaluating the City's climate change policies further to Bill 139 and Growth Plan, 2017 policies

Option 5 – Embrace



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Option 5 – Embrace

- The City and the CA's work more closely together to have the City recognized as an environmental leader
- Includes examples from option 4, as well as additional initiatives, such as:
 1. Work together to boost tourism to the City
 2. Use science and information to help inform decision making for business sectors (e.g. agriculture, recreation)

Option 5 – Embrace

1. Work together to boost tourism to the City
 - Provide an exceptional quality of life to residents and promote a vibrant and growing economy
- Why is this important?
 - Currently, the Conservation Areas in the City are lacking an environmental multi-use facility(ies)
 - Lack of facilities keeps the City and KRCA from tapping into the full potential of the Conservation Areas
 - Expand education services offered by the KRCA
 - Make Conservation Area facilities available for business meetings, workshops, events and as a community space
 - Examples of opportunities from Halton Conservation, Credit Valley and Toronto Region Conservation Authorities

Option 5 – Embrace

Outdoor Weddings



Add a touch of green to your special day! Outdoor weddings and special events available at Island Lake, Terra Cotta and Belfountain Conservation Areas.

Professional photography in Conservation Areas requires an event permit.

Please call 1.800.367.0890 or contact recreation@creditvalleyca.ca for more information!

Island Lake Conservation Area package includes:

- Rehearsal visit for bridal party family prior to wedding date
- Reserved area of your choice for outdoor ceremony and/ or reception
- Use of pavilion with hydro and water
- Arbour
- 2 pillar stumps for flower arrangements
- Signing table and chair
- Guest admissions and parking for large groups up to 200 people
- Décor and extra services available
- Includes annual **Conservation Parks Family and Friends membership**
- Professional engagement and wedding photography and videography permit
- Large tent rentals permitted
- Onsite restrooms

Slide 28

Upcoming events at Hilton Falls



Meditation Hikes- Hilton Falls



Photography Workshop- Hilton Falls

Autumn Indoor Yoga

Sunday, October 7, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. (75 min session)

Terra Cotta Conservation Area (Watershed Learning Centre), Terra Cotta ([View Map](#))

Into The Woods We Write

An exploration into the art of storytelling. Let nature spark your creativity with a writing workshop & a guided tour of the woods.

April 28th, 18+
9:30 - 12:30pm

May 26th, 14 - 18yrs
1 - 4pm

\$50

Register by April 20th at
www.shadowpaththeatre.ca



Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre
1229 Bethesda Side Rd

SHADOWPATH
THEATRE

Conservation
Parks Family and Friends
membership

Option 5 – Embrace

- Why is this important (continued)?
 - Attract visitors to the City and bring awareness of what the CKL has to offer
 - Help boost CA revenue
 - Booking of facilities
 - More traffic to Conservation Areas
 - Ken Reid Conservation Area - \$2.00 per vehicle
 - Hilton Falls Conservation Area, Halton Conservation - \$7.00 per adult

Option 5 – Embrace

2. Use science and information to help inform decision making for business sectors

- CA's have expertise in water quality monitoring, stewardship, Low Impact Development (LID), etc., which can benefit business sectors and decrease long-term costs
- Why is this important?
 - Environmentally sustainable practice
 - May decrease long-term costs to farmers associated with water quality management and other rehabilitative practices
 - For example, Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative in southwestern Ontario
 - Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs worked with four CA's to study soil health and water quality

Recommendation



Ken Reid Conservation Area

Recommendation

1. Dissolution – not recommended
 - Dissolves a CA, but not its responsibilities
 - Requires support from other municipalities, the public, the province and the Lieutenant Governor in Council
2. Reduce CA services – not recommended
 - Would not result in service efficiencies
3. Continue CA services – recommended
 - Prioritizes protecting the environment
 - In the best interests of the City's departments, staff, public and development proponents
4. Increase CA services – further evaluation required
5. Embrace – further evaluation required