

A. Your municipality's roles and activities that contribute to the natural, cultural, heritage and economic values within the watershed.

1. In what way are your roles and activities connected to the Ottawa River watershed?

All of the Township of Madawaska Valley is included in the watershed area envisaged by this study. The municipality owns a significant amount of the shoreline road allowance around lakes and along rivers. This property enables public access to recreational uses and enjoyment of nature along our waterways.

The Township of Madawaska Valley is responsible for applications under the Planning Act for Minor Variance, Zoning Amendments and Official Plan Amendments. The municipality is aware of the critical role that land use planning plays in shaping the physical, psychological and social health of our community. Natural systems are well recognized as important factors that promote increased physical activity, psychological wellbeing and healthier outcomes for people who live in, or visit our community.

2. Is your organization aware of any significant natural, cultural, heritage and economic values that are central to overall ecosystem health and the wellbeing of communities in the region? For example, these may include facts and trends population and economic growth, historically important features, recreational activities, and local tourism.

The Township of Madawaska Valley is very cognizant of the relationship between good drinking water and economic growth. Kamaniskeg Lake is the water source for the Barry's Bay Water Treatment Plant that provides drinking water to the Village of Barry's Bay (population of 1,259). The municipality took part in a pilot project and developed a Source Water Protection Plan for this lake. Drinking water for the majority of year-round residents (population of 4,123) comes from private wells. Good waterway stewardship is provided by five Cottager/Lake Associations in our community. Seasonal and year-round residents understand the connection between property values, natural systems and good drinking water. Local planning regulations ensure that buffers are maintained and that the development capacity levels on more sensitive lakes are acknowledged and controlled.

For decades this municipality has treated the lakes and rivers in the watershed with the utmost respect, while promoting their use as much as possible. Bark Lake, Kamaniskeg Lake, Wadsworth Lake, Paugh Lake, Dam Lake, Long Lake, the Madawaska River and the Conroy Marsh are all critical tourism and economic development pillars for the Township of Madawaska Valley. Waterfront properties are key attractors for year-round population growth. Environmental and recreational tourism are important growth industries that are filling the employment gap that resulted from the mechanization of the Lumber Industry. Heritage and cultural values associated with the Lumber Industry and the traditional use of the waterways for hunting and fishing remain very important to our community.

3. Can you describe some of the past, present and potential future threats to those values?

Property owners in the Township of Madawaska Valley pride themselves on being successful stewards of their lands and our waterways. The municipality is concerned that the proposed Ottawa River Watershed Council could become a third party body with the powers of a conservation authority that will take

planning control out of the hands of municipal governments. The regulatory controls already in place through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are extremely capable of ensuring the health of the watershed through current policies and practices. As a conservation authority, the Ottawa River Watershed Council would inflict a level of control that this area of the watershed is not asking for, at a price that the Township of Madawaska Valley is both unwilling and unable to pay.

The Township of Madawaska Valley is a small, rural municipality that is struggling to balance the fiscal pressures of infrastructure renewal with our residents' ability to pay. We are a retirement community (median age is 55) with many of our seniors living on fixed incomes well below the poverty line. A 1% property tax increase raises about \$36,600 in tax revenue. Simply put, our property taxpayers cannot afford the additional financial burden of paying the municipality's share of the administrative, operating and capital costs that a Conservation Authority would have the authority to impose. These additional costs will impose a financial hardship on our community by causing property tax increases that threaten economic development and growth, and reduce the funds available to preserve our heritage and cultural values.

4. Does your municipality collect any information that would be relevant to the values or threats listed above? If so, please describe.

The municipality's financial data is readily available through the annual budgets and Financial Information Returns posted on our website. Local development within the watershed could be extrapolated from the number of planning consents and building permits, if needed.

B. Identify knowledge, data and information that could assist in indicating watershed health.

1. The Motion identifies the following indicators to track regarding the health of the Ottawa River watershed: water quality, biodiversity and shoreline integrity. Do you agree with including these indicators? Are there other indicators that should be added?

These factors are best left to those with the education and background to make these determinations.

2. Does your municipality collect any data that might inform an assessment of the health of the Ottawa River watershed? If so, is it publically available? If not, are you willing to share it?

No, we do not collect this data.

3. Are you aware of any knowledge or data gaps related to watershed health regarding both your municipality and the broader Ottawa River watershed? If gaps do exist, are there any practices or models for data gathering and sharing that you have found to be most effective?

These factors are best left to those with the education and background to make these determinations.

4. What, if any, would be the ideal role for a Council in analyzing and protecting watershed health? How would this interact with your current roles and responsibilities?

A new level of analyzing and protecting watershed health is not required, given the roles of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRF), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. An Ottawa River Watershed Council is not needed, or wanted by the Township of Madawaska Valley. SHOULD this Council be enacted, we would look to have inclusion on the "board" for direct interaction on financial, planning and future development matters.

C. Your opinion on the potential creation of an Ottawa River watershed governance body, and the possible mandate, structure, activities, guiding principles and membership of an effective watershed governing body

Motion M-104 mentions that an Ottawa River Watershed Council would bring a comprehensive, inclusive, co-management approach to the Ottawa River watershed.

1. Is there a need for a more comprehensive, "big picture" approach to managing the Ottawa River watershed? If so, is a Council or other new entity the best way to ensure success? Are there other ways to achieve this?

This picture is way too big. All the different areas of this watershed are not exactly the same. Something that has a positive effect on the wellbeing of one area could be disastrous in another. The Township of Madawaska Valley opposes the idea that a Council or some other entity is the best way to ensure success. We already protect the natural values of this watershed through planning policies and practices. Current regulatory bodies such as the MOECC, MNRF, County and Municipal governments are more than sufficient.

2. Should a Council or other entity be recommended, what should its mandate and responsibilities include – or not include – taking into consideration the mission and responsibilities of municipalities?

Should this Council be formed despite our objections, then it should ONLY be focused on non-regulatory work such as promotion of the watershed, and joint activities that are cultural or celebratory in nature. The Council could host an annual "summit" to promote positive partner interactions and collaboration across the watershed. The Council should provide NON-REGULATORY, NON-BINDING recommendations to municipal governments within the watershed. All costs associated with this Council should be funded by the Federal Government.

3. Should a Council or other entity be recommended, how should membership be allocated and how should it be structured? Further, how should municipalities be represented and what should their role be?

In Ontario, municipalities must pay for the Council/Conservation Authority that is given authority over the watershed in their community. Elected municipal representatives should have majority representation on the Ottawa River Watershed Council because they are directly accountable to the property taxpayers who will pay for it. Factors such as ability to pay need to be given serious consideration when apportioning the costs for this Council to small, rural and northern municipalities. Laws and regulations in Ontario and Quebec may not align. This should also be considered before determining the composition, practices and procedures for this Council.

4. Attached in Annex B are eleven Integrated Watershed Management principles designated by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. How could management of the Ottawa River watershed better reflect the principles listed in Annex B?

These factors are best left to those with the education and background to make these determinations.

5. From the perspective of your municipality, are you aware of any gaps in current governance? What would be the ideal role of municipal governments?

The Township of Madawaska Valley does not believe there are any gaps that need to be addressed. We already enjoy a good working relationship with the regulatory bodies (MNRF, MOECC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada) that govern the same things an Ottawa River Watershed Council would be making recommendations about. There really is no need for this Council.