



— Quinte —  
CONSERVATION

# CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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ADMINISTRATIVE BY-LAW



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# Quinte Conservation Authority Administrative By-Law Model

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## Administrative By-Law

### Introduction

Quinte Conservation Authority is a non-share corporation, established in 1947 under Section 3 of the Conservation Authorities Act, with the objects to provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, coal and minerals.

Under the Act, municipalities within a common watershed are enabled to petition the province to establish a conservation authority. The purpose of the Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario. The Authority is comprised of its Members, appointed as representatives by the Participating Municipalities. Current membership is as follows:

City of Belleville	3 Members
City of Quinte West	1 Member
Municipality of Centre Hastings	1 Member
Township of Madoc	1 Member
Municipality of Tweed	1 Member
Tudor & Cashel Township	1 Member
Township of Addington Highlands	1 Member
Municipality of Marmora & Lake	1 Member
Stirling & Rawdon Township	1 Member
Township of Central Frontenac	1 Member
Township of South Frontenac	1 Member
Township of North Frontenac	1 Member
Township of Stone Mills	1 Member
Loyalist Township	1 Member
Town of Greater Napanee	1 Member
Tyendinaga Township	1 Member
Town of Deseronto	1 Member
County of Prince Edward	6 Members

At Quinte Conservation Authority we envision to be the premier ecologically healthy, sustainable watershed. This is supported by our Mission in helping to create a healthy and sustainable ecosystem where people and nature live in harmony.

The Members of the Conservation Authority form the General Membership of the Conservation Authority. The Members are bound by the Act and other applicable legislation. The Authority must always act within the scope of its powers. As a non-share corporation, the Authority has the capacity and subject to the Act and other applicable legislation, the rights, powers and privileges of a natural person. The powers of a conservation authority to accomplish its objects are set out in the Act, including those identified under subsection 21(1).

## Powers of authorities

- 21 1) For the purposes of accomplishing its objects, an authority has power,
- (a) To research, study and investigate the watershed and to support the development and implementation of programs and services intended to further the purposes of this Act;
  - (b) For any purpose necessary to any project under consideration or undertaken by the authority, to enter into and upon any land and survey and take levels of it and make sure borings or sink such trial pits as the authority considers necessary;
  - (c) To acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any land that it may require, and, subject to subsection (2), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired;
  - (d) Despite subsection (2), to lease for a term of five years or less land acquired by the authority;
  - (e) To purchase or acquire any personal property that it may require and sell or otherwise deal therewith;
  - (f) To enter into agreements for the purchase of materials, employment of labour and other purposes as may be necessary for the due carrying out of any project or to further the authority's objects;
  - (g) To enter into agreements with owners of private lands to facilitate the due carrying out of any project;
  - (h) To determine the proportion of the total benefit afforded to all the participating municipalities that is afforded to each of them;
  - (i) To erect works and structures and create reservoirs by the construction of dams or otherwise;
  - (j) To control the flow of surface waters in order to prevent floods or pollution or to reduce the adverse effects thereof;
  - (k) To alter the course of any river, canal, brook, stream or watercourse, and divert or alter, as well temporarily as permanently, the course of any river, stream, road, street or way, or raise or sink its level in order to carry it over or under, on the level of or by the side of any work built or to be built by the authority, and to divert or alter the position of any water-pipe, gas-pipe, sewer, drain or any telegraph, telephone or electric wire or pole;
  - (l) To use lands that are owned or controlled by the authority for purposes, not inconsistent with its objects, as it considers proper;
  - (m) To use lands owned or controlled by the authority for park or other recreational purposes, and to erect, or permit to be erected, buildings, booths and facilities for such purposes and to make charges for admission thereto and the use thereof;
- (m.1) to charge fees for services approved by the Minister;

Note: On a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, clause 21 (1) (m.1) of the

Act is repealed. (See: 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 19(3))

- (n) To collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations and individuals;
- (o) To plant and produce trees on Crown lands with the consent of the Minister, and on other lands with the consent of the owner, for any purpose;
- (p) Generally to do all such acts as are necessary for the due carrying out of any project or as may be desirable to further the objects of the authority.

## A. Definitions

**“Authority”** means the Quinte Conservation Authority (QC)

**“Act”** means the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter C.27

**“Chair”** means the Chairperson as referenced in the Act as elected by the Members of the Authority.

**“Chief Administrative Officer”** means the General Manager or Chief Administrative Officer of the Authority and which may, by resolution of the Authority, include the responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer if so designated by resolution of the Authority.

**“Fiscal Year”** means the period from January 1 through December 31.

**“General Membership”** means all of the Members, collectively.

**“Levy”** means the amount of costs apportioned to participating municipalities in accordance with the Act and Regulations under the Act.

**“Majority”** means half of the votes plus one.

**“Members”** shall mean the members appointed to the Authority by the participating municipalities in the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.

**“Non-matching Levy”** means that portion of an Authority’s levy that meets the definition of non-matching levy as found in Ontario Regulation 139/96.

**“Officer”** means an officer of the Authority empowered to sign contracts, agreements and other documents on behalf of the Authority in accordance with section 19.1 of the Act, which shall include the Chair, Vice-Chair(s) the Chief Administrative Officer and the Secretary-Treasurer (or the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, if applicable) and the Corporate Services Manager.

**“Participating Municipality”** means a municipality that is designated by or under the Act as a participating municipality in a conservation authority.

**“Pecuniary Interest”** includes the financial or material interests of a Member and the financial or material interests of a member of the Member’s immediate family.

**“Secretary-Treasurer”** means Secretary-Treasurer of the Authority with the roles specified in the Act.

“**Staff**” means the employee of the Authority as provided for under Section 19(1) of the Act.

“**Vice-Chair**” means the Vice-Chairperson as elected by the Members of the Authority. If a first and second Vice-Chair is elected, they shall be called First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair.

“**Weighted Majority**” means the votes of 51 per cent of those represented after the votes are weighted by the percentage that applies under Ontario Regulation 139/96 for Municipal Levies.

## **B. Governance**

### **1. Members**

#### **a) Appointments**

Participating Municipalities within the jurisdiction of the Quinte Conservation Authority may appoint Members in accordance with Section 14 of the Act.

Appointed Members must reside in a Participating Municipality within the Authority’s area of jurisdiction and may include citizens as well as elected members of municipal councils.

Collectively, the appointed Members comprise the Authority, and for the purposes of this by-law are also referred to as the General Membership.

At least 70 per cent of a municipality’s appointees must be selected from among the members of the municipal council, unless the municipality obtains permission from the Minister to select less than 70 per cent of its appointees from among the members of the municipal council.

#### **b) Term of Member Appointments**

In accordance with Section 14 of the Act, a Member shall be appointed for a term of up to four years at the discretion of the appointing municipal council; such term beginning at the first meeting of the Authority following his or her appointment and ending immediately before the first meeting of the Authority following the appointment of his or her replacement. The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the appropriate municipality in advance of the expiration date of any Member’s term, unless notified by the municipality of the Member’s reappointment or the appointment of his or her replacement. A Member is eligible for reappointment. A Member can be replaced by a Participating Municipality at the municipality’s discretion prior to the end of their term.

#### **c) Powers of the General Membership**

Subject to the Act and other applicable legislation, the General Membership is empowered without restriction to exercise all of the powers prescribed to the Authority under the Act. In addition to the powers of an authority under s.21 of the Act for the purposes of accomplishing its objects, as referenced in the introduction of this By-law model, the powers of the General Membership include but are not limited to:

- i. Approving by resolution, the creation of Committees and/or Advisory Boards, the members thereof and the terms of reference for these Committees and/or Advisory Boards;

- ii. Appointing a Chief Administrative Officer and/or Secretary-Treasurer;
- iii. Terminating the services of the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Secretary- Treasurer.
- iv. Approving, establishing and implementing regulations, policies and programs;
- v. Awarding contracts or agreements where the approval of the Authority is required under the Authority's purchasing policy.
- vi. Appointing an Executive Committee and delegate to the Committee any of its powers except:
  - a) The termination of the services of the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Secretary-Treasurer,
  - b) The power to raise money, and
  - c) The power to enter into contracts or agreements other than those contracts or agreements as are necessarily incidental to the works approved by the Authority.
- vii. Approving by resolution, any new capital project of the Authority;
- viii. Approving by resolution, the method of financing any new capital projects;
- ix. Approving details on budget allocations on any new or existing capital projects;
- x. Approving of the total budget for the ensuing year, and approving the levies to be paid by the Participating Municipalities;
- xi. Receiving and approving the Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor for the preceding year;
- xii. Authorizing the borrowing of funds on the promissory note of the Authority in accordance with subsection 3(5) of the Act;
- xiii. Approving by resolution, any proposed expropriation of land or disposition of land, subject to the requirements under the Act;
- xiv. Approving permits or refusing permission as may be required under any regulations made under Section 28 of the Act: including the delegation of this responsibility to Chief Administrative Officer consistent with Regulation 319-06;
- xv. Holding hearings required for the purpose of reviewing permit applications, and advising every applicant of their right to appeal the decision to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry through the Mining and Lands Tribunal;

**(d) Member Accountability**

Participating Municipalities appoint Members to the Authority as their representatives. Members have the responsibilities of Directors of the corporation that is the Authority. While the administration is responsible for the day-to-day operations, the General Membership is responsible for matters of governance, ensuring compliance with applicable legislation, and ensuring appropriate policies are in place and for financial soundness of the Authority.

All Members have the responsibility to be guided by and adhere to the Code of Conduct (Appendix 1) and Conflict of Interest Policy (Appendix 2), as adopted by the Authority.

Members are responsible for:

- i. Attending all meetings of the Authority;
- ii. Understanding the purpose, function and responsibilities of the authority;
- iii. Being familiar with the Authority's statutory and other legal obligations;
- iv. With the administration, setting strategic direction for the Authority.



### **(e) Applicable Legislation**

In addition to the Act, the Members are subject to other legislation including, but not limited to:

- *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*
- *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

If any part of the by-law conflicts with any provision of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act or the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or a provision of a regulation made under one of those acts, the provision of that act or regulation prevails.

### **f) Relationship between Members and Staff**

The General Membership relies on the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer and/or Secretary- Treasurer to manage the operations of the organization, including all employees of the Authority. The Chief Administrative Officer and/or Secretary Treasurer is accountable to the Authority, working cooperatively to achieve the goals established by the Authority.

The General Membership will ensure that a process exists for annual performance evaluations of the Chief Administrative Officer and/or Secretary-Treasurer.

## **2. Officers**

The Officers of the Authority, and their respective responsibilities, shall be:

### **Chair**

- Is a Member of the Authority;
- Presides at all meetings of the General Membership (and Executive Committee if applicable);
- Calls special meetings if necessary;
- Acts as a public spokesperson on behalf of the General Membership;
- Serves as signing officer for the Authority;
- Ensures relevant information and policies are brought to the Authority's attention;
- Keeps the General Membership apprised of significant issues in a timely fashion;
- Performs other duties when directed to do so by resolution of the Authority.

### **Vice-Chair(s)**

- Is/are a Member(s) of the Authority;
- Attends all meetings of the Authority (and Executive Committee if applicable);
- Carries out assignments as requested by the Chair;
- Understands the responsibilities of the Chair and acts as Chair immediately upon the death, incapacity to act, absence or resignation of the Chair until such time as a new Chair is appointed or until the Chair resumes his/her duties;
- Serves as a signing officer for the Authority.

### **Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/Secretary-Treasurer**

Responsibilities of the CAO as assigned by the Authority include, but are not limited to the following:

- Is an employee of the Authority;

- Attends all meetings of the General Membership (and Executive Committee if applicable) or designates an acting CAO if not available;
- Works in close collaboration with the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) and keeps them apprised of relevant information and significant issues in a timely fashion;
- Develops a strategic plan for approval by the General Membership and implements short and long-range goals and objectives;
- Is responsible for the management of the operations of the Authority, including all staff and programs of the Authority;
- Ensures resolutions of the Authority are implemented in a timely fashion;
- Develops and maintains effective relationships and ensures good communications with participating municipalities, federal and provincial government ministries/agencies, Indigenous communities, other conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario, stakeholders, community groups and associations;
- Serves as a signing officer for the Authority.
- Fulfills the requirements of the Secretary-Treasurer as defined in the Act;
- Attends all meetings of the General Membership (and Executive Committee, if applicable);
- Is the custodian of the Corporate Seal;

### **3. Absence of Chair and Vice-Chair(s)**

In the event of the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) from any meeting, the members shall appoint an Acting Chair who, for the purposes of that meeting has all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the Chair.

### **4. Maximum Term for Chair and Vice-Chair(s)**

Quinte Conservation Authority appoints the chair and vice chair for a two year term rotating the chair and vice-chair within the three watersheds. The rotation is set out in appendix three.

The term of office for the Authority Chair and Vice-Chair shall be limited to two (2) consecutive years unless otherwise decided by a resolution of the General Membership and approved by the Minister per Section 17 of the Act

### **5. Representatives to Conservation Ontario Council**

The Authority may appoint up to three Representatives to Conservation Ontario Council ("Council"), designated as Voting Delegate and Alternate(s). Council will consist of the Voting Delegates appointed by each Member Conservation Authority. The Voting Delegate and Alternates shall be registered with Conservation Ontario annually.

### **6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs**

The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be held in January at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Act: or at such other meeting as may be specified in accordance with the Authority's Procedures for Election of Officers (Appendix 3).

Successors to the position of Chair shall be a Board Member appointed by a different municipality to the incumbent. Successors to the position of Vice Chair shall be a Board member appointed by a different municipality to the incumbent.

## **7. Appointment of Auditor**

The General Membership shall appoint an auditor for the coming year at the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 38 of the Act.

## **8. Appointment of Financial Institution**

The General Membership shall appoint a financial institution to act as the Authority's banker by Resolution at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Section 38 of the Act.

## **9. Appointment of Solicitor**

The General Membership shall appoint a solicitor(s) to act as the Authority's legal counsel by Resolution at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Section 387 of the Act; or at such other meeting as may be specified in accordance with the Authorities Procedures.

## **10. Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor**

The General Membership shall receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor annually for the previous year by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

The Authority shall forward copies of the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor to Participating Municipalities and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Section 38 of the Act and will make the Audited Financial Statements available to the public. Audited Financial Statements will be published electronically on the Authority's website, or provided in print upon requests.

## **11. Borrowing Resolution**

If required, the Authority shall establish a borrowing resolution by March 31 of each year and such resolution shall be in force until it is superseded by another borrowing resolution.

## **12. Levy Notice**

The levy due to the Authority from participating municipalities shall be communicated to those municipalities in accordance with the Act and any applicable Regulations.

## **13. Signing Officers**

All deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, and obligations entered into by the Authority shall be signed by the signing officers of the Authority, as follows:

Signing Officers will be appointed each year by resolution at the Annual General Meeting: or at a Board of Directors meeting as may be specified in accordance with the Authority's Procedures.

Signing Officers will include the Chief Administrative Officer /Secretary Treasurer, the Corporate Services Manager/Financial position, the Chair and Vice Chair.

Signing authority that was authorized by any previous Administration Regulation or By-law is superseded by this by-law.

## **14. Executive Committee**

The Authority may appoint an executive committee at the first meeting of the General Membership each year in accordance with the Section 19 of the Act and Section 1(c)(xv) of this by-law.

## 15. Advisory Boards and Other Committees

In accordance with Section 18(2) of the Act, the Authority shall establish such advisory boards as required by regulation and may establish such other advisory boards or committees as it considers appropriate to study and report on specific matters.

The General Membership shall approve the terms of reference for all such advisory boards and committees, which shall include the role, the frequency of meetings and the number of members required.

Resolutions and policies governing the operation of the Authority shall be observed in all advisory board and committee meetings.

Each advisory board or committee shall report to the General Membership, presenting any recommendations made by the advisory board or committee.

The dates of all advisory board and committee meetings shall be made available to all Members of the Authority.

## 16. Current Advisory Committees include:

The Board reserves the right to establish advisory committees on an as required basis.

Existing Committees:

1. Moira Watershed Advisory Committee(MRCA)
2. Napanee Region Watershed Advisory Committee(NRCA)
3. Prince Edward Watershed Advisory Committee(PERCA)
4. Regulations Committee
5. Executive Personnel Committee

It was established by agreement when the amalgamation of the Moir River Conservation Authority, The Prince Edward Conservation Authority, and the Napanee Region Conservation Authority that each watershed would maintain an advisory committee. The three (3) watershed advisory committees would make up the full executive of Quinte Conservation.

The Watershed Advisory Committees elect their own Chair and Vice-Chair and the committee meets only to deal with issues that are unique to their watershed.

### **Regulations Committee**

The Regulations committee membership consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Watershed Advisory Committee. The Regulations Committee hears all appeals under Sec 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

### **The Executive Personnel Committee**

The Executive Personnel Committee will consist of the Chair of the Moira Watershed Advisory Committee, The Prince Edward Watershed Advisory Committee, and the Napanee Region Watershed Advisory Committee. The Executive Personnel Committee will deal with all personnel issues.

## 17. Remuneration of Members

The Authority shall establish a per-diem rate from time to time to be paid to Members for attendance at General Meetings, Advisory Board meetings or Committee meetings, and at such other business functions as may be from time to time requested by the Chair, through the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary. In addition, an honorarium may be approved by the Authority for the Chair and Vice-chair(s) as compensation for their additional responsibilities. A single per- diem will be paid for attendance at more than one meeting if they occur consecutively on the same day.

The Authority shall reimburse Members' reasonable travel expenses incurred for the purpose of attending meetings and/or functions on behalf of the Authority. A per-kilometre rate to be paid for use of a personal vehicle shall be approved by Resolution of the General Membership from time-to-time. Requests for such reimbursements shall be submitted within a timely fashion and shall be consistent with Canada Revenue Agency guidelines.

## **18. Records Retention**

The Authority shall keep full and accurate records including, but not limited to:

- i. Minutes of all meetings of the Authority, including registries of statements of interests in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act,
- ii. Assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements of the Authority and Financial Statements and Reports of the Auditors;
- iii. Human Resources Files for all employees and Members as applicable;
- iv. Workplace Health and Safety documents including workplace inspections, workplace accidents, investigations, etc.;
- v. Electronic Communications including emails;
- vi. Contracts and Agreements entered into by the Authority;
- vii. Strategic Plans and other documents providing organizational direction
- viii. Projects of the Authority;
- ix. Technical Studies and data gathered in support of Programs of the Authority;
- x. Legal Proceedings involving the Authority;
- xi. Incidents of personal injury or property damage involving the Authority and members of the public.

Such records shall be retained and protected in accordance with all applicable laws and the Records Retention Policy of the Authority as approved by the General Membership from time-to-time.

## **19. Records Available to Public**

Records of the Authority shall be made available to the public, subject to requirements of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act* (MFIPPA).

The Authority shall designate a Member or a committee of Members to act as head of the Authority for the purposes of MFIPPA.

Within 30 days after any meeting of the Authority or of an executive committee, the Chief Administrative Officer shall send a copy of the Draft minutes of the meeting to the Clerk of each member municipality and make them available to the public.

## **20. By-law Review**

In accordance with the Act, these by-laws shall be reviewed by the Authority to ensure the by-laws are in compliance with the Act and any other relevant law. The General Membership shall review

the by-laws every four years to ensure best management practices in governance are being followed to comply with Section 19.1 of the Act.

### **21. By-law Available to Public**

In accordance with the Act, the Authority shall make its by-laws available to the public on the Authority's website. By-laws shall also be available for review by any member of the public at the Authority's administration centre or provided in alternative formats, in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, if requested by interested parties.

### **22. Enforcement of By-laws and Policies**

The Members shall respect and adhere to all applicable by-laws and policies (for example, the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest). The Authority may take reasonable measures to enforce its by-laws and policies, including the enforcement mechanisms under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. As a minimum, the procedure should include:

- i. an investigation will be conducted regarding the alleged breach;
- ii. an opportunity will be provided to the affected member to respond to the allegation;
- iii. the findings of the investigation and the affected member's response will be communicated to the General Membership in a closed meeting;
- iv. the appointing municipality shall be notified of the outcome of the investigation.

### **23. Indemnification of Members, Officers and Employees**

The Authority undertakes and agrees to indemnify and save harmless its Members, Officers and Employees and their heirs and legal representatives, respectively, from and against all costs, charges and expenses, including all amounts paid to settle an action or satisfy any judgement, reasonably incurred by any such Member, Officer or Employee in respect of any civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding to which any such Member, Officer or Employee is made a party by reason of being a Member, Officer or Employee of the Authority (except in respect of an action by or on behalf of the Authority to procure a judgment in its favour) if;

- i. such Member, Officer or Employee acted honestly, in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Authority and within the scope of such Member's, Officer's or Employee's duties and responsibilities, and,
- ii. in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty that such Member, Officer or Employee had reasonable grounds for believing that the conduct was lawful.

## **C. Meeting Procedures**

The Meeting Procedures below governing the procedure of the Authority shall be observed in Executive Committee and Advisory Board meetings, as far as they are applicable, and the words Executive Committee or Advisory Board may be substituted for the word Authority as applicable. When the Authority or Executive Committee, as the case may be, are sitting as a Hearing Board/Committee, hearings will meet the requirements of the Statutory Powers and Procedures Act SPPA, the details of which are specified in the Quinte Conservation Hearing Procedures.

### **1.A Rules of Procedure**

In all matters of procedure not specifically dealt with under the Act and this By-law, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order or other generally accepted rules of procedure, shall be binding.

The Authority will normally conduct its business as a committee of the whole.

### **1.B Declared State of Emergency**

- During any period where an emergency has been declared to exist, in all or part of an area over which the Authority has jurisdiction, under Section 4 or 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, that may prevent the General Membership from meeting in person, a Member may participate in meetings electronically and shall have the ability to:
  - register a vote;
  - be counted towards determining quorum; and
  - participate in meetings closed to the public.
- During any period where an emergency has been declared to exist, in all or part of an area over which the Authority has jurisdiction, under Section 4 or 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, that may prevent the General Membership from meeting in person, any date or timeline requirement established under any Section in this By-law shall be postponed until such time as the General Membership can reasonably address the issue.
- During any period where an emergency has been declared to exist, in all or part of an area over which the Authority has jurisdiction, under Section 4 or 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the Authority shall implement best practices to make meetings of the Authority open to the public in accordance with Subsection 15(3) of the Act. Where possible, the Authority will provide for alternative means for the public to participate in meetings electronically.
- During any period where an emergency has been declared to exist, in all or part of an area over which the Authority has jurisdiction, under Section 4 or 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, that may prevent the General Membership from meeting in person, any hearing or appeal dealt with in this By-law may be conducted electronically with provisions for applicants and their agents to participate if the Authority decides to hold any such hearing or appeal

### **2. Notice of Meeting**

The General Membership shall approve a schedule for regular meetings in advance. The Secretary-Treasurer shall send Notice of regular meetings to all Members five calendar days in advance of a meeting. Notice of all regular or special meetings of the General Membership or its committees shall be made available to the public as soon as possible after its delivery to General Membership.

Notice of any meeting shall indicate the time and place of that meeting and the agenda for the meeting.

All material and correspondence to be dealt with by the Authority at a meeting will be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer in advance of the meeting. All materials and correspondence to be included in the published agenda must be received fourteen (14) days in advance. Items to be tabled and introduced at the meeting should be received four (4) days in advance.

The chair may, at his/her pleasure, call a special meeting of the Authority as necessary on providing five (5) calendar days' notice in writing or email. That notice shall state the business of the special meeting and only that business shall be considered at that special meeting. Any member, with 50% support of the other members, may also request the Chair to call a meeting of the Authority and the Chair will not refuse.

The Chair or the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer may, by notice in writing or email delivered to the members so as to be received by them at least twelve (12) hours before the hour appointed for the meeting, postpone or cancel any meeting of an Advisory Board or other committee until the next scheduled date for the specific Advisory Board or committee affected.

The Chair or the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer may, if it appears that a storm or like occurrence will prevent the members from attending a meeting, postpone that meeting by advising as many members as can be reached or, if warranted, hold the meeting electronically provided quorum and public participation can be met. Postponement shall not be for any longer than the next regularly scheduled meeting date.

### **3. Meetings Open to Public**

All meetings of the General Membership and Executive Committee, if applicable, shall be open to the public.

A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is identified in the closed meeting section of the Agenda and the subject matter meets the criteria for a closed meeting as defined in this by-law.

### **4. Agenda for Meetings**

Authority staff, under the supervision of the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, shall prepare an agenda for all regular meetings of the Authority that shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following headings:

- i. Approval of Agenda
- ii. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
- iii. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
- iv. Announcements
- v. Hearings
- vi. Deputations
- vii. Presentations
- viii. Presentations of written reports (where applicable)
- ix. Verbal Reports (where applicable)
- x. Correspondence
- xi. New Business
- xii. Reports and Updates from Board Directors
- xiii. Notice of Next meeting
- xiv. Adjournment

The agenda for special meetings of the Authority shall be prepared as directed by the Chair.

Agendas for meetings shall be forwarded to all Members at least 5 calendar days in advance of the meeting. Such agendas shall be made available to the public on the Authority's website at the



same time, unless the meeting is closed to the public in accordance with this by-law. Such agendas shall also be available in alternative formats, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, if requested by interested parties.

## **5. Quorum**

At any meeting of the General Membership, a quorum consists of one-half of the Members appointed by the Participating Municipalities, except where there are fewer than six such Members, in which case three such Members constitute a quorum. At any Executive Committee (if applicable), advisory board or committee meeting, a quorum consists of one-half of the Members of the Executive Committee (if applicable), advisory board or committee.

If there is no quorum within one half hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the Chair for the meeting shall declare the meeting adjourned due to a lack of a quorum, or shall recess until quorum arrives, and the recording secretary shall record the names of the Members present and absent.

If during an Authority or Advisory Board or Committee meeting a quorum is lost, then the Chair shall declare that the meeting shall stand recessed until the quorum is re-established provided such quorum is re-established within one hour or the declaration or shall stand adjourned, until the date of the next regular meeting or other meeting called in accordance with the provisions of this by-law.

Where the number of Members who are disabled from participating in a meeting due to the declaration of a conflict of interest is such that at that meeting the remaining Members are not of sufficient number to constitute a quorum, the remaining number of Members shall be deemed to constitute a quorum, provided such number is not less than two (2).

## **6. Order of Business**

The business of the Authority shall be taken up in the order in which it stands on the agenda unless otherwise decided by a majority of those Members present.

No Member shall present any matter to the Authority for its consideration unless the matter appears on the agenda for the meeting of the Authority or leave is granted to present the matter by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present.

## **7. Debate**

The Authority shall observe the following procedures for discussion/debate on any matter coming before it:

- i. A Member shall be recognized by the Chair prior to speaking;
- ii. Where two or more Members rise to speak, the Chair shall designate the Member who has the floor, who shall be the Member who in the opinion of the Chair was first recognized;
- iii. All questions and points of discussion shall be directed through the Chair;
- iv. Where a motion is presented, it shall be moved and seconded before debate;
- v. No Member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave from the Chair, except in explanation of a material part of the speech;
- vi. No Member shall speak more than (10) minutes without leave of the Chair;
- vii. Any Member may ask a question of the previous speaker through the Chair;

- viii. The Member who has presented a motion, other than a motion to amend or dispose of a motion, may speak again to the motion immediately before the Chair puts the motion to a vote;
- ix. When a motion is under debate, no motion shall be received other than a motion to amend, to defer action, to refer the question, to take a vote, to adjourn, or to extend the hour of closing the proceedings;
- x. When a motion is under consideration, only one amendment is permitted at a time.

## **8. Matters of Precedence**

The following matters shall have precedence over the usual order of business:

- i. a point of order;
- ii. matter of privilege;
- iii. a matter of clarification;
- iv. a motion to suspend a rule of procedure or to request compliance with the rules of procedure;
- v. a motion that the question be put to a vote;
- vi. a motion to adjourn.

## **9. Members' Attendance**

The Authority shall provide a listing of Members' attendance at scheduled meetings of the Authority to the Participating Municipalities at least annually.

Upon a Member's vacancy due to death, incapacity or resignation occurring in any office of the Authority, the Authority shall request the municipality that was represented by that Member appoint a Member replacement.

In the event that a municipal appointed Member misses three (3) consecutive meetings without due notice, the Authority will advise the Member's municipality of the unaccountable absences.

If a Member is unable to attend any meeting and wishes to bring any additional information or opinion pertaining to an agenda item to the General Membership, the Member shall address in writing or email to the Chair or CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary such correspondence prior to the start of the meeting. The correspondence shall be read aloud by the CAO/Secretary- Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer without comment or explanations.

## **10. Electronic Meetings and Participation**

Electronic meetings are permitted and must follow/accommodate all Section C. Meeting Procedures identified in this by-law, or in the case of Hearings, the Quinte Conservation Hearing Guidelines.

A Member can participate electronically in a meeting that is open or closed to the public and in either case may be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point in time. Electronic meetings must permit all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. For open electronic meetings, the public must be able to participate in the meeting electronically and be able to observe all that Members can hear and see at the meeting.

## **11. Delegations**

Any person or organization who wishes to address the Authority may make a request in writing or email to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary. The request should include a brief statement of the issue

or matters involved and indicate the name of the proposed speaker(s). If such request is received fourteen (14) days in advance of a scheduled meeting and the delegation shall be listed on the published agenda.

Any person or organization requesting an opportunity to address the Authority, but not having made a written request to do so in the timelines specified above, may appear before the meeting if approved by two thirds of Members present, or shall be listed on the published agenda for the following meeting.

Except by leave of the Chair or appeal by the leave of the meeting, delegations shall be limited to one (1) speaker for not more than 10 minutes. Speakers will be requested not to repeat what has been said by previous speakers at the meeting. A returning delegation will only be allowed to speak again if new, relevant information has become available since their previous presentation. The Chair may choose to end a returning delegation's presentation if, in the opinion of the Chair, the new information being presented is not relevant to a decision facing the General Membership.

## **12. Annual Meeting**

The Authority shall designate one meeting of the General Membership each year as the annual meeting and shall include the following items on the agenda, in addition to the normal course of business:

- i. Election of Officers
- ii. Appointment of Legal Council
- iii. Appointment of Auditor
- iv. Appointment of Bankers including a Borrowing Resolution
- v. Appointment of Signing Officers
- vi. Appointment to Advisory Committees
- vii. Appointment to Conservation Ontario Council

## **13. Meetings with Closed "In Camera" Sessions**

Every meeting of the General Membership, Executive Committee and Advisory Boards, if applicable, shall be open to the public as per Section 15(3) of the Act, subject to the exceptions set out below.

Meetings may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to:

- i. The security of the property of the Authority;
- ii. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including employees of the Authority;
- iii. A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Authority;
- iv. Labour relations or employee negotiations;
- v. Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals (e.g. Local Planning Appeal Tribunal), affecting the Authority;
- vi. Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
- vii. A matter in respect of which the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another act;
- viii. information explicitly supplied in confidence to the Authority by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- ix. a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the Authority, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;

- x. a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the Authority and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- xi. a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority.

The Authority shall close a meeting if the subject matter relates to the consideration of a request under MFIPPA, and the Authority is the head of an institution for the purposes of MFIPPA.

Before holding a meeting or part of a meeting that is to be closed to the public, the Members shall state by resolution during the open session of the meeting that there will be a meeting closed to the public and the general nature of the matter to be considered at the closed meeting. Once matters have been dealt with in a closed meeting, the General Membership shall reconvene in an open session.

The General Membership shall not vote during a meeting that is closed to the public, unless:

- i. the meeting meets the criteria outlined in this by-law to be closed to the public; and
- ii. the vote is for a procedural matter or for giving directions or instructions to Officers, employees or agents of Authority.

Any materials presented to the General Membership during a closed meeting shall be returned to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer prior to departing from the meeting and shall be treated in accordance with the Authority's procedures for handling confidential material.

A meeting of the Authority, executive committee, advisory board or other committee may also be closed to the public if:

- i. the meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the Members, and
- ii. at the meeting, no Member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the authority, the executive committee, advisory board or other committee.

#### 14. Voting

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act:

- a) each Member is entitled to one vote, and
- b) a majority vote of the Members present at any meeting is required upon all matters coming before the meeting

If any Member who is qualified to vote abstains from voting, they shall be deemed to have voted neither in favour nor opposed to the question, which will not alter the number of votes required for majority.

On a tie vote, the motion is lost.

Interrelated motions shall be voted on in the order specified in Robert's Rules of Order, Bourinot's Rules of Order or other generally accepted rules of procedures]

Unless a Member requests a recorded vote, a vote shall be by a show of hands or such other means as the Chair may call. No question shall be voted more than once at any meeting, unless a vote is requested.

If a member present at a meeting at the time of the vote requests immediately before or after the taking of the vote that the vote be recorded, each member present taken by alphabetical surname with the Chair voting last, except a member who is disqualified from voting by any Act, shall announce his or her vote openly answering “yes” or “no” to the question, and the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall record each vote.

At the meeting of the Authority at which the Non-Matching Levy is to be approved, the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct the vote to approve of Non-Matching Levy by a Weighted Majority of the Members present and eligible to vote, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 139/96.

Where a question under consideration contains more than one item, upon the request of any member, a vote of each item shall be taken separately.

Except as provided in Section B, Item 6 of this By-law (Election of Chair and Vice-Chair), no vote shall be taken by ballot or by any other method of secret voting, and every vote so taken is of no effect.

### **15. Notice of Motion**

Written notice of motion to be made at an Authority, executive committee, advisory board or committee meeting may be given to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer by any Member of the Authority not less than seven business days prior to the date and time of the meeting and shall be forthwith placed on the agenda of the next meeting. The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall include such notice of motion in full in the agenda for the meeting concerned.

Recommendations included in reports of advisory boards or committees that have been included in an agenda for a meeting of the General Membership or Executive Committee (if applicable), shall constitute notice of motion for that meeting.

Recommendations included in staff reports that have been included in an agenda for a meeting of the General Membership or Executive Committee (if applicable), shall constitute notice of motion for that meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any motion or other business may be introduced for consideration of the Authority provided that it is made clear that to delay such motion or other business for the consideration of an appropriate advisory board or committee would not be in the best interest of the Authority and that the introduction of the motion or other business shall be upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Authority present.

### **16. Motion to Reconsider**

If a motion is made to reconsider a previous motion, a two-thirds majority vote shall be required in order for reconsideration to take place. If a motion to reconsider is passed, the original motion shall then be placed on the agenda at a future meeting to be debated and voted upon, and the result of that vote, based on a simple majority, shall supersede.

### **17. Duties of the Meeting Chair**

It shall be the duty of the Chair, with respect to any meetings over which he/she presides, to:

- a) Preserve order and decided all questions of order, subject to appeal; and without argument or comment, state the rule applicable to any point of order if called upon to do so;

- b) Ensure that the public in attendance does not in any way interfere or disrupt the proceedings of the Members;
- c) Receive and submit to a vote all motions presented by the Members, which do not contravene the rules of order or regulations of the Authority;
- d) Announce the results of the vote on any motions so presented;
- e) Adjourn the meeting, when business is concluded.

## **18. Conduct of Members**

Members shall maintain a high standard of conduct at all times comply with applicable laws and the Authority's Code of Conduct (Appendix 1).

No Member at any meeting of the Authority shall

Speak in a manner that is discriminatory in nature based on an individual's race, ancestry, place or origin, citizenship, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, colour, marital status, family status, or disability;

Leave their seat or make any noise or disturbance while a vote is being taken or until the result is declared;

Interrupt a Member while speaking, except to raise a point of order or a question of privilege;

Speak disrespectfully or use offensive words against the Authority, the Members, staff, or any member of the public;

Speak beyond the question(s) under debate;

Resist the rules of order or disobey the decision of the Chair on the questions or order or practices or upon the interpretation of the By-laws.

## **19. Minutes of Meetings**

The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall undertake to have a recording secretary in attendance at meetings of the Authority, the Executive Committee and each advisory board or committee. The recording secretary shall make a record in the form of minutes of the meeting proceedings and in particular shall record all motions considered at the meeting.

If a recording secretary is not present in a closed session, the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall take notes of any direction provided, for endorsement by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Minutes of all meetings shall include time and place of the meeting and a list of those present and shall state all motions presented together with the mover and seconder and voting results.

The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer or designate shall include draft minutes of the previous meeting available to each member of the Authority at the same time as agendas for the next meeting are distributed.

After the minutes have been approved by resolution, original copies shall be signed by the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer and copies of all non – confidential minutes shall be posted on the Authority's website. Such minutes shall also be available for review by any member of the public at the Authority's administration centre or provided in alternative formats, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, if requested by interested parties.

**D. Approval of By-Law and Revocation of Previous By-law(s)**

By-law number QC-20-023 is hereby repealed;

By-law number QC-20-065 is hereby repealed;

By-law number QC-21- 039 shall come into force on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME      February 18, 2021  
Date

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED      February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Date

Signed:

  
Chair

  
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer

## E. Appendices to the Administrative By-law

### Appendix 1 – Code of Conduct

#### 1. Background

Quinte Conservation Authority demands a high level of integrity and ethical conduct from its General Membership. The Authority's reputation has relied upon the good judgement of individual Members. A written Code of Conduct helps to ensure that all Members share a common basis for acceptable conduct. Formalized standards help to provide a reference guide and a supplement to legislative parameters within which Members must operate. Further, they enhance public confidence that Members operate from a base of integrity, justice and courtesy.

The Code of Conduct is a general standard. It augments the laws which govern the behaviour of Members, and it is not intended to replace personal ethics.

This Code of Conduct will also assist Members in dealing with confronting situations not adequately addressed or that may be ambiguous in Authority resolutions, regulations, or policies and procedures.

#### 2. General

All Members, whether municipal councillors or appointed representatives of a municipality, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects in a manner that reflects positively on the Authority.

It is expected that Members adhere to a code of conduct that:

- I. Upholds the mandate, vision and mission of the Authority;
- II. Considers the Authorities jurisdiction in its entirety, including their appointing municipality;
- III. Respects confidentiality;
- IV. Approaches all Authority issues with an open mind, with consideration for the organization as a whole;
- V. Exercises the powers of a Member when acting in a meeting of the Authority;
- VI. Respects the democratic process and respects the decisions of the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Boards and other committees;
- VII. Declares any direct or indirect pecuniary interest or conflict of interest when one exists or may exist; and
- VIII. Conducts oneself in a manner which reflects respect and professional courtesy and does not use offensive language in or against the Authority or against any Member or any Authority staff.

#### 3. Gifts and Benefits

Members shall not accept fees, gifts, hospitality or personal benefits that are connected directly or indirectly with the performance of duties, except compensation authorized by law.



#### **4. Confidentiality**

The members shall be governed at all times by the provisions of the Municipal Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

All information, documentation or deliberations received, reviewed, or taken in a closed meeting are confidential.

Members shall not permit any persons, other than those who are entitled thereto, to have access to information which is confidential.

In the instance where a member vacates their position on the General Membership they will continue to be bound by MFIPPA requirements.

Particular care should be exercised in protecting information such as the following:

- i. Human Resources matters;
- ii. Information about suppliers provided for evaluation that might be useful to other suppliers;
- iii. Matters relating to the legal affairs to the Authority;
- iv. Information provided in confidence from an Aboriginal community, or a record that if released could reasonably be expected to prejudice the conduct of relations between an Aboriginal community and the Authority;
- v. Sources of complaints where the identity of the complainant is given in confidence;
- vi. Items under negotiation;
- vii. Schedules of prices in tenders or requests for proposal;
- viii. Appraised or estimated values with respect to the Authority's proposed property acquisitions or dispositions;
- ix. Information deemed to be "personal information" under MFIPPA.

The list above is provided for example and is not exhaustive.

#### **5. Use of Authority Property**

No member shall use for personal purposes any Authority property, equipment, supplies, or services of consequence other than for purposes connected with the discharge of Authority duties or associated community activities of which the Authority has been advised.

#### **6. Work of Political Nature**

No Member shall use Authority facilities, services or property for his/her election or re-election campaign to any position or office within the Authority or otherwise.

#### **7. Conduct at Authority Meetings**

During meetings of the Authority, Members shall conduct themselves with decorum. Respect for delegations and for fellow Members requires that all Members show courtesy and not distract from the business of the Authority during presentations and when others have the floors.

## **8. Influence on Staff**

Members shall be respectful of the fact that staff work for the Authority as a whole and are charged with making recommendations that reflect their professional expertise and corporate perspective, without undue influence.

## **9. Business Relations**

No Member shall borrow money from any person who regularly does business with the Authority unless such person in an institution or company whose shares are publicly traded and who is regularly in the business of lending money.

No Member shall act as a paid agent before the Authority, the Executive Committee or an advisory board or committee of the Authority, except in compliance with the terms of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

## **10. Encouragement of Respect for the Authority and its Regulations**

Members shall represent the Authority in a respectful way and encourage public respect for the Authority and its Regulations.

## **11. Harassment**

It is the policy of the Authority that all persons be treated fairly in the workplace in an environment free of discrimination and of personal and sexual harassment. Harassment of another Member, staff, or any member of the public is misconducted. Members shall follow the Authority's Harassment Policy as approved from time-to-time.

## **12. Breach of Code of Conduct**

Should a Member breach the Code of Conduct, they shall advise the Chair and Vice-Chair, with a copy to the CAO/Secretary- Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, as soon as possible after the breach.

Should a Member allege that another Member has breached the Code of Conduct; the said breach shall be communicated to the Chair, with a copy to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, in writing. In the absence of the Chair, or if a Member alleges the Chair has breached the Code of Conduct, the said breach shall be communicated to the Vice-Chair, with a copy in writing to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer.

Should a member of the public or a municipality allege that a Member has breached the Code of Conduct, the party making the allegation will be directed to follow the notification procedure outlined above.

Any breach, or alleged breach, of the Code of Conduct shall be investigated in accordance with the Enforcement of By-laws and Polices procedure outlined or referred to in the Authority's Administrative By-law.

## Appendix 2- Conflict of Interest

### 1. Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

The Authority Members commit themselves and the Authority to ethical, business like, and lawful conduct when acting as the General Membership. The Authority is bound by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. This appendix to the by-law is indented to assist Members in understand their obligations. Members are required to review the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

### 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Where a Member, either on his or her own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Authority, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or committee at which the matter is subject of consideration, the Member:

- a) Shall, prior to any consideration of the matter at the meeting, disclose the pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof;
- b) Shall not take part in the discussion of , or vote on any question in respect of the matter, and,
- c) Shall not attempt in anyway whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question.

### 3. Chair's Conflict of Interest of Pecuniary Interest

Where the Chair of a meeting discloses a conflict of interest with respect to a matter under consideration at a meeting, another Member shall be appointed to chair that portion of the meeting by Resolution.

### 4. Closed Meeting

Where a meeting is not open to the public, a Member who has declared a conflict of interest shall leave the meeting for the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.

### 5. Member Absent

Where the interest of a Member has not been disclosed by reason of their absence from the particular meeting, the Member shall disclose their interest and otherwise comply at the first meeting of the Authority, Executive Committee, Advisory Board or Committee, as the case may be, attended by them after the particular meeting.

### 6. Disclosure Recorded in Minutes

The recording secretary shall record in reasonable detail the particulars of any disclosure of conflict of interest or pecuniary interest made by Members and whether the Member

withdrew from the discussion of the matter. Such record shall appear in the minutes/notes of that particular meeting of the General Membership, Executive Committee, Advisory Board, or Committee, as the case may be.

## **7. Breach of Conflict of Interest Policy**

Should a Member breach the Conflict of Interest Policy, they shall advise the Chair and Vice-Chair, with a copy to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, as soon as possible after the breach.

Should a Member allege that another Member has breached the Conflict of Interest Policy; the said breach shall be communicated to the Chair, with a copy to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, in writing. In the absence of the Chair, or if a Member alleges the Chair has breached the Conflict of Interest Policy, the said breach shall be communicated to the Vice-Chair, with a copy to the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, in writing.

Should a member of the public or a municipality allege that a Member has breached the Conflict of Interest Policy; the party making the allegation will be directed to follow the notification procedure outlined above.

Any breach, or alleged breach, of the Conflict of Interest Policy shall be investigated in accordance with the Enforcement of By-laws and Policies procedure outlined or referred to in the Authority's Administrative By-law.

## Appendix 3 – Procedure for Election of Officers

As per the agreement between the former MRCA, PERCA, and NRCA to amalgamate and form Quinte Conservation the following procedure will be followed:

The advisory committees for the Moira, Prince Edward and Napanee watersheds will elect Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair of the watershed will sit as the Chair of Quinte Conservation on a rotating basis.

When the Chair of Prince Edward Watershed Advisory Committee is Chair of QC, the Vice-Chair will be the Chair of the Napanee Watershed Advisory Committee.

When the Chair of the Napanee Watershed Advisory Committee is the Chair of Quinte Conservation, the Vice-Chair will be the Chair of Moira Watershed Advisory Committee.

When the Chair of Quinte is the Chair of Moira Watershed Advisory Committee, the Vice-Chair will be the Chair of Prince Edward Watershed Advisory Committee.  
The Chair and Vice-Chair of Quinte will sit for a term of two years.

At the annual meeting of Quinte Conservation, the Chair and Vice-Chair will be formally nominated and voted on as per the Conservation Authorities Act election process as outlined.

The term of the Chair and Vice-Chair will be two years but will require endorsement at the annual meeting every year.

### 1. Voting

Voting shall be secret ballot and no Members may vote by proxy.

### 2. Acting Chair

The General Membership shall appoint a person, who is not voting Member, as Acting Chair or Returning Officer, for the purpose of Election of Officers.

### 3. Scrutineer(s)

The appointment of one or more scrutineers is required for the purpose of counting ballots, should an election be required. All ballots shall be destroyed by the scrutineers afterwards. The Acting Chair shall call a motion for the appointment of one or more persons, who are not Members or employees of the Authority, to act as scrutineers. A Member, who will not stand for election, may be appointed as an additional scrutineer if requested.

### 4. Election Procedures

The Acting Chair shall advise the Members that the election will be conducted in accordance with the Act as follows:

a) The elections shall be conducted in the following order:

- i. Election of the Chair, who shall be a Member of the Authority
- ii. Election of one or more Vice-Chairs, who shall be Members of the Authority.

- b) The Acting Chair shall ask for nominations to each position;
- c) Only current Members of the Authority who are present may vote;
- d) Nominations shall be called three (3) times and will only require a mover;
- e) The closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;
- f) Each Member nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The Member must be present to accept the nomination unless the Member has advised the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination.

If one Nominee:

- a. If only one nominee the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation.

If More than One Nominee:

- b. In the event of an election, each nominee shall be permitted not more than three (3) minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames.
- c. Upon the acceptance by nominees to stand for election to the position of office, ballots shall be distributed to the Members by the scrutineers for the purpose of election and the Acting Chair shall ask the Members to write the name of one individual only on the ballot.
- d. The scrutineers shall collect the ballots, leave the meeting to count the ballots, return and advise the Acting Chair who was elected with more than 50% of the vote.

A majority vote shall be required for election. If there are more than two nominees, and upon the first vote no nominee receives the majority required for election, the name of the person with the least number of votes shall be removed from further consideration for the office and new ballots shall be distributed. In the case of a vote where no nominee receives the majority required for election and where two or more nominees are tied with the least number of votes, a special vote shall be taken to decide which one of such tied nominees' names shall be dropped from the list of names to be voted on in the next vote.

Should there be a tied vote between two remaining candidates, new ballots shall be distributed and second vote held. Should there still be a tie after the second ballot a third vote shall be held. Should there be a tie after the third vote; the election of the office shall be decided by lot drawn by the Acting Chair or designate.