

**Full Authority**  
**20 January 2023**  
**Agenda Item: 15**

**Regulations Fee Comparison**

**Background**

At the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Board Meeting, the Board passed the following two motions:

*FA Motion G 085/22*

*Moved by: Catherine Redden*

*Seconded by: Jim Martin*

*That the CVCA Fee Policy be adopted as presented in order to be compliant with current legislative requirements and*

*That the CVCA Fee Schedules be adopted and implemented as of 31 December 2022.*

*Carried*

And

*FA Motion G 086/22*

*Moved by: Catherine Redden*

*Seconded by: Jim Martin*

*To direct staff to provide comparative information for fees at the next Board meeting.*

*Carried*

Staff have provided a chart (please see the attached excel spreadsheet) listing a comparison of fees as requested and is based on the 2023 fee schedules. Twelve conservation authorities (1/3 of all authorities) were surveyed with a focus primarily on eastern Ontario authorities. Other authorities were included to give a regional context as well. Fees compared are divided into sections including: 1) Regulation Fees, 2) Planning Fees and 3) Property Inquiry Fees.

As Board members will note, there are variations in the fee structures. While some conservation authorities use very similar fee structures, there are certainly different versions used by conservation authorities, which made some of the comparisons challenging. However, staff have made every attempt to complete the comparison as accurately as possible.

The implied intent of this exercise was to ascertain whether the CVCA's fees were "comparable" to other authorities. As the Board members will observe, there are CVCA fees which are either above or below other conservation authorities. Overall, CVCA fees are below the average of the conservation authorities surveyed.

In addition to the foregoing information, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, all conservation authorities were notified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry of changes that would be in effect as of 1 January 2023.

See Attached Ministerial Directive for your information. Every member municipality also received notification of this Directive.

Prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, conservation authorities were unaware of the term which fees would be frozen, hence many authorities, including the CVCA decided to proceed with 2023 approval rates at the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 meeting.

## **Board Discussion**

**TP**