

Schedule A – Category 3 Programs and Services Requiring Municipal Financial Support Through Cost Apportioning

SERVICE AREAS

Through subsection 21.1.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Conservation Authorities (CAs) are empowered to provide programs and services it determines are advisable to further the purposes of the Act, to municipalities through an agreement. The Act defines these programs as Category 3.

The following ABCA Category 3 service areas are core components of integrated watershed management and have been provided for decades. They are in the ABCA Community Conservation Strategy (2011) and Watershed Management Strategy (2015) and have become valued by the watershed community. These programs and services are funded by a variety of sources: municipal levy, self-generated (user fees, donations, foundations etc.) as well as provincial and federal funding.

Financial summary of Category 3 programs requiring municipal funding support

Financial Summary of Category 3 Programs	Year 2025
Total Program Cost	\$910,858
Federal/Provincial Contribution	\$240,129
Self-Generated Revenue	\$498,113
Total Municipal Apportionment for this program	\$172,616
Municipality of South Huron Apportionment	\$32,429

SERVICE AREA: WATERSHED AND SUB-WATERSHED STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Program description: Created for a drainage area, plans incorporate information on current watershed conditions and identify measures to protect, conserve and restore the watershed. Plans address natural hazard issues and recommends mitigation impacts from potential future land uses. The ABCA also facilitates community-based watershed strategies.

Program details: The ABCA works with communities to develop and implement subwatershed strategies. Activities include: community engagement and objective setting, supporting protection, enhancement and restoration activities, monitoring and evaluating actions. Note:

Natural hazard considerations will be incorporated when the current plans are reviewed and updated.

Current plans include Ausable River Action Plan, Old Ausable Channel Management Plan, Main Bayfield Watershed Plan, and Bayfield North Watershed Plan. The ABCA supports local communities in addressing their ecosystem interests and issues with strategies that have smaller and more relevant watershed boundaries.

In the Natural Heritage Systems Implementation Phase, the ABCA incorporates natural heritage information particularly around wetlands to develop planning and regulatory strategies to mitigate downstream natural hazards.

Note: Watershed planning related to natural hazards is a Category 1 program.

Financial Information

Watershed & Subwatershed Strategies & Projects	Year 2025
Total Program Cost	\$172,229
Federal/Provincial Contribution	\$147,729
Self-Generated Revenue	Nil
Total Municipal Apportionment for this program	\$24,500
Municipality of South Huron Apportionment	\$4,603

SERVICE AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Program Description: Groundwater and surface water sites are monitored for a variety of indicators to support flood forecast and warning, low water response, watershed report cards, watershed plans, and stewardship project prioritization. Service Area 2 provides significant information to help guide municipal decision making and implement their legislated responsibilities. The program is a partnership of the municipal, provincial and federal governments and community organizations.

Program Details: Surface water quality monitoring is completed at nine sites in West Perth, Bluewater, Central Huron, Lambton Shores, and North Middlesex (in addition to Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network), Lake Huron nearshore water monitoring at area beaches, edge-of-field monitoring at Huronview Demonstration Farm near Clinton, benthic monitoring at

30 sites across the watersheds. When appropriate, staff will respond to local spills events at the request of Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, municipalities and citizens.

The main method of reporting on local watershed conditions is through the Watershed Report Card. The ABCA watershed is divided into 16 subwatersheds. Measuring increases understanding of the watershed, focuses efforts and tracks progress. The next Watershed Report Card is scheduled to be released in 2027.

Municipalities and citizens can receive data on local water quality conditions upon request. For some programs, data are available on line.

Note: These monitoring sites are in addition to the Provincial Water Quality and Groundwater Monitoring Network that have sites in West Perth, Huron East, South Huron, Central Huron, Bluewater, Lucan Biddulph, Middlesex Centre and North Middlesex. Biomonitoring stations for fish and indicators of river health are located in all Municipalities.

Financial Information

Environmental Monitoring & Research	Year 2025
Total Program Cost	\$54,242
Federal/Provincial Contribution	Nil
Self-Generated Revenue	\$3,742
Total Municipal Apportionment for this program	\$50,500
Municipality of South Huron Apportionment	\$9,487

SERVICE AREA: WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP AND RESTORATION

Program Description: The stewardship and restoration program has three key components: one-on-one technical assistance to watershed landowners, connecting landowners with cost-share funding, and tree planting. Projects will reduce the risk to life and property from natural hazards, protect water quality and quantity, improve forest conditions, increase biodiversity and make the watersheds more resilient to climate change. The program is delivered throughout the watersheds. Projects benefit the site and downstream communities.

Program Details: Staff will work with property owners to implement Best Management Practices to mitigate flood and erosion hazards, improve and protect water quality, restore floodplains and river valleys, reduce nutrient contamination, restore and enhance wetlands to

reduce flooding peaks and augment low flow, manage terrestrial non-native invasive species, protect groundwater, and improve aquatic species at risk habitat. Staff apply for and manage external funding, promote private land stewardship, provide technical advice and project technical design assistance.

Coordinating the Watershed Stewardship and Restoration program with the Environmental Monitoring and Research program allows for stewardship project prioritization. Prioritizing projects connects landowners with additional cost-sharing funding to best meet the needs of the community, and the environment, and leverages the contributions of local funds with other programs.

Financial Information

Watershed Stewardship & Restoration	Year 2025
Total Program Cost	\$541,326
Federal/Provincial Contribution	\$92,400
Self-Generated Revenue	\$409,338
Total Municipal Apportionment for this program	\$39,588
Municipality of South Huron Apportionment	\$7,437

SERVICE AREA: CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Program Description: Education and outreach programs increase knowledge and awareness in children and adults about local environmental issues, watersheds, ecosystems and conservation actions people can implement on their lands. Programs are linked to ABCA priorities.

Program Details: Staff provide curriculum-based education programs for elementary and secondary students. These programs focus on local watersheds, ecosystems, and environmental issues. Programs take place at schools (indoors and outdoors), field trips and through online learning.

Education and outreach programs and community events help achieve the objectives of the conservation authority. These programs are open to people of all ages.

Financial Information

Education & Outreach	Year 2025
Total Program Cost	\$143,061
Federal/Provincial Contribution	Nil
Self-Generated Revenue	\$85,033
Total Municipal Apportionment for this program	\$58,028
Municipality of South Huron Apportionment	\$10,902