

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
(613) 692-3571, 1-800-267-3504
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Held in-person and electronically due to COVID-19 Pandemic

APPROVED MINUTES

Board of Directors	1/23	February 23, 2023
Present:	Jeff Banks Barry Card Steve Fournier Susan Irwin Morgan Kenny Wilson Lo Shawn Pankow Kristin Strackerjan Adrian Wynands	Gerry Boyce Brian Dowdall Charlene Godfrey Theresa Kavanagh Pieter Leenhouts Shawn Menard Anne Robinson Gary Waterfield
Staff:	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Kathy Dallaire Diane Downey Brian Stratton Marissa Grondin	Dan Cooper Terry Davidson Glen McDonald Ian Cochrane
Regrets:	Mel Foster	Angela Pierman

Chair Leenhouts called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer conducted a roll call.

Chair Leenhouts welcomed new and returning members and called for a round of introductions from members and staff.

1.0 Land Acknowledgement Statement

Chair Leenhouts gave the Land Acknowledgement statement.

2.0 Agenda Review

Chair Leenhouts reviewed the Agenda.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 1-230223

Moved by:

Anne Robinson

Seconded by:

Brian Dowdall

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority adopts the Agenda as circulated.

Resolution Carried

4.0 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5.0 Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2022

Resolution 2-230223

Moved by:

Steve Fournier

Seconded by:

Kristen Strackerjan

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting #08/22, November 24, 2022, as circulated.

Resolution Carried

6.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

7.0 Forestry Machine Planting & Band Spray Contract

Ian Cochrane, Forestry Program Manager gave an overview of RVCA's Forestry Program and provided a summary of the machine planting and band spraying contract.

Chair Leenhouts opened the floor to questions.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Cochrane explained that the low response rate to the RFP may be due to a combination of factors including machine planting being a niche market and a lack of skilled contractors available during the relatively short planting season.

In response to a concern regarding the use of herbicides, Mr. Cochrane explained that band spraying is only recommended for sites where grass competition is high enough that it jeopardizes the ability of tree seedlings to survive, and the application takes care to protect the environment such as time of year and setbacks from watercourses.

Resolution 3-230223

Moved by:

Steve Fournier

Seconded by:

Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves retaining Ottawa Valley Forest Consulting to provide machine planting and band spray services for 2023 at a rate of \$580 per 1000 trees planted and band spray services at a rate of \$320 per hectare with an approximate project value of \$29,000;

AND THAT, based on performance, staff have the option of retaining Ottawa Valley Forest Consulting to provide machine planting and band spray services for 2024 at the same price.

Resolution Carried

8.0 Forestry Hand Planting Contract

Ian Cochrane provided information on RVCA's hand planting contract.

Chair Leenhouts opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

Resolution 4-230223

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

Seconded by:

Gary Waterfield

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves retaining Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd. to provide hand planting services for 2023 at a rate of \$570 per 1000 trees for new planting sites and \$620 per 1000 trees for refill planting sites for an approximate project value of \$90,000;

AND THAT, based on performance, staff have the option of retaining Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd. to provide hand planting services for 2024 at the same price.

Resolution Carried

9.0 Forestry Spot Spraying Contract

Ian Cochrane provided information about RVCA's spot spraying contract.

Chair Leenhouts opened the floor to questions, there were none.

Resolution 5-230223

Moved by:

Brian Dowdall

Seconded by:

Steve Fournier

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves Stick and Hero Woodland Restoration to provide spot spraying

services for 2023 at a rate of \$340 per 1000 trees sprayed for an approximate project value of \$31,000;

AND THAT, based on performance, staff have the option of retaining Stick and Hero Woodland Restoration to provide spot spraying services for 2024 at the same price.

Resolution Carried

Gerry Boyce left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

10.0 New Flood Forecasting Model

Brian Stratton, Manager of Engineering presented the attached slide deck providing an overview of RVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning program and responded to questions.

Jeff Banks joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

In response to a member inquiry, Mr. Stratton explained that the RVCA works alongside neighbouring Conservation Authorities and the City of Ottawa to help the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board monitor local Ottawa River flood conditions and provide updates to the public.

Mr. Stratton informed a member that Parks Canada no longer provides their monitoring data to Conservation Authorities, but that the information can be found on the Parks Canada website.

A member asked what effect current ice conditions may have on flooding and the City of Ottawa's ice management program. Mr. Stratton explained that due to thin ice, the blasting program may need to be conducted differently this year as the ice cannot support staff or some of the equipment traditionally used to break it up. It is not known if this will make removal operations easier or if it will reduce the potential impact on flooding.

Mr. Stratton then provided members with an overview of RVCA's new proposed flood forecasting and warning model and responded to questions.

Mr. Stratton confirmed that Phase 1 will be completed in 2023 and Phase 2 will be completed in 2024 meaning the new model will be in place for the 2025 spring freshet. He also explained that both the current and new model will be used concurrently during the transition period.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Stratton expressed confidence that the consultants will be able to produce a model that performs as promised given that the consultants are leading experts and developers of the software being used and they have developed similar models for other conservation authorities. He also noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has been using and promoting this model across the province.

In response to a member inquiry about future costs, Mr. Stratton stated that there may be costs associated with acquiring additional datasets but there are no annual fees or costs associated with the model.

Mr. Stratton clarified that datasets used for the new model come from a number of reliable data sources.

Resolution 6-230223

Moved by:

Steve Fournier

Seconded by:

Shawn Pankow

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves retaining Defensive Options Inc. to develop a new flood forecasting and warning model for the Rideau watershed at a total cost of \$249,200 plus applicable taxes;

THAT staff be authorized to spend up to an additional \$25,000 (10 percent contingency) to cover any unforeseen project expenses;

AND THAT the RVCA's maximum financial contribution to the project be \$144,200 plus applicable taxes coming from RVCA's Working Fund Reserve should external funding not be available to cover the full cost of the project or the contingency.

Resolution Carried

Chair Leenhouts called for a 10-minute break.

The meeting resumed at 8:06 p.m.

11.0 2023 Budget Approval

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager presented the 2023 Budget and responded to questions.

In response to a member inquiry, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provides conservation authorities with the modified current value assessment data they have to use to apportion their general levy to municipalities. She encouraged municipalities to contact her if with any questions or concerns about the data.

Resolution 7-230223

Moved by:

Adrian Wynands

Seconded by:

Anne Robinson

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves a 2023 general municipal levy of \$6,719,748; and

THAT this levy be apportioned to the participating municipalities according to the attached sheet entitled “2023 Proposed Municipal Levy Apportionment” (dated February 8, 2023).

<u>Those in favour:</u>	Jeff Banks	Barry Card
	Brian Dowdall	Steve Fournier
	Charlene Godfrey	Susan Irwin
	Theresa Kavanagh	Morgan Kenny
	Wilson Lo	Shawn Menard
	Shawn Pankow	Anne Robinson
	Kristin Strackerjan	Gary Waterfield
	Adrian Wynands	Pieter Leenhouts

Those Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Gerry Boyce Angela Pierman

Resolution Carried

Resolution 8-230223

Moved by:

Wilson Lo

Seconded by:

Steve Fournier

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the attached 2023 Budget as amended in the amount of \$11,836,363 (dated November 24, 2022); and

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority establishes special levies payable by the City of Ottawa as sole benefitting municipality as follows:

- | | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 1. | \$10,000 | Capital Reserve for Water Control Structures in Ottawa |
| 2. | \$21,500 | Capital Reserve for Britannia Village Flood Control Project |
| 3. | \$40,000 | Operation of Water Control Structures in Ottawa |
| 4. | \$987,648 | Rideau River Ice Management in Ottawa |
| 5. | \$158,696 | Aquatic Monitoring in Ottawa |

<u>Those in favour:</u>	Jeff Banks	Barry Card
	Brian Dowdall	Steve Fournier
	Charlene Godfrey	Susan Irwin
	Theresa Kavanagh	Morgan Kenny
	Wilson Lo	Shawn Menard
	Shawn Pankow	Anne Robinson

Kristin Strackerjan
Adrian Wynands

Gary Waterfield
Pieter Leenhouts

Those Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Gerry Boyce Angela Pierman

Resolution Carried

12.0 Administrative By-Law Amendments

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson presented proposed amendments to RVCA's Administrative By-Law based on an updated by-law template from Conservation Ontario. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson responded to questions.

In response to a member inquiry, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson committed to bring a report to the Board for members to consider holding meetings during the day or starting them earlier in the evening.

Resolution 9-230223

Moved by:

Brian Dowdall

Seconded by:

Theresa Kavanagh

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority amend Appendix 4-A of the attached amended Administrative By-law to add a third bullet under section 1. *Purpose* to read:

- Hear requests for fee reconsiderations in accordance with RVCA's fee Policy

Resolution Carried

Resolution 10-230223

Moved by:

Susan Irwin

Seconded by:

Steve Fournier

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the attached amended Administrative By-Law including appendices and that these amendments take effect February 24, 2023.

Resolution Carried

13.0 Bill 23 Update

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson provided an update on legislative changes resulting from Bill 23 and responded to questions.

In response to a member inquiry, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that further changes are expected to the Provincial Policy Statement and Section

28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, so many conservation authorities are waiting to see the impact of those changes before assessing impacts on revenues and staffing. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson noted that these legislative changes will likely impact the 2023 budget and a report will be brought to the Board later this year. The member commented that communication between the RVCA and member municipalities will be of great importance while these changes are navigated together.

In response to a member suggesting that municipalities record the effects legislative changes are having on plan review processes, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson agreed that there is value in municipalities documenting how legislative changes are impacting plan review timelines and costs. Some members indicated that their municipalities had already begun tracking.

Resolution 11-230223

Moved by:

Kristin Strackerjan

Seconded by:

Gary Waterfield

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receives this report for information.

Resolution Carried

14.0 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Leenhouts asked for a motion to appoint Sommer Casgrain-Robertson as Acting Chair for the purpose of conducting the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Resolution 11-230223

Moved by:

Steve Fournier

Seconded by:

Brian Dowdall

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority appoints the General Manager as Acting Chair for the purpose of Election of Officers.

Resolution Carried

Pieter Leenhouts surrendered the Chair to Ms. Casgrain-Robertson who then conducted the election for Chair.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson called for nominations from the floor for Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors for the year 2023.

Wilson Lo nominated Kristin Strackerjan and Kristin Strackerjan accepted the nomination.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson called for further nominations from the floor two more times.

Resolution 12-230223

Moved by:

Anne Robinson

Seconded by:

Pieter Leenhouts

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors for the year 2023 be closed.

Resolution Carried

Kristin Strackerjan was acclaimed Chair.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson then conducted the election for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson called for nominations from the floor for Vice-Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors for the year 2023.

Brian Dowdall nominated Anne Robinson and Anne Robinson accepted the nomination.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson called for further nominations from the floor two more times.

Resolution 13-230223

Moved by:

Gary Waterfield

Seconded by:

Steve Fournier

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors for the year 2023 be closed.

Resolution Carried

Anne Robinson was acclaimed Vice-Chair.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson thanked former Chair Pieter Leenhouts for serving as Chair for the past four years and for his many years of service to the RVCA as a member of the Board of Directors and previously as a member of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee.

Chair Strackerjan resumed the meeting.

15.0 Meetings

- a) CO Council Session on Bill 23: November 28, 2022
- b) General Managers Meeting on Bill 23: December 12, 2022
- c) General Managers Session on O. Reg 596/22: January 3, 2022
- d) ROMA Conference: January 23 – 25, 2023
- e) Lanark County Planners Meeting on O. Reg 596/22: January 26, 2022
- f) Leeds Grenville Planners Meeting on O. Reg 596/22: January 26, 2022
- g) Frontenac Planners Meeting on O. Reg 596/22: January 27, 2022

- h) Ottawa Planners Meeting on O. Reg 596/22: January 31, 2022
- i) Kemptville Woodlot Conference Speakers Series: February 1, 2022
- j) Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee Meeting: February 2, 2023
- k) RVCA Board of Directors Training Session #1: February 8, 2023
- l) AMCTO Mental Health and Wellness Forum: February 9, 2022
- m) RVCA Board of Directors Training Session #2: February 14, 2023
- n) Annual Flood Forecasting and Warning Partners Meeting: February 14, 2022

Upcoming

- o) RVCF Board of Directors Meeting: March 8, 2023
- p) RVCA Board of Directors Meeting: March 23, 2023
- q) Conservation Ontario Council Annual General Meeting: April 3, 2023

16.0 Member Inquiries

Steve Fournier commented that he attended RVCA’s annual Flood Forecasting and Warning meeting again this year and that he found the content interesting and informative. He also thanked Terry Davidson for presenting to the Big Rideau Lake Association about septic maintenance.

17.0 New Business

None

18.0 Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m. on a resolution by Adrian Wynands which was seconded by Brian Dowdall.

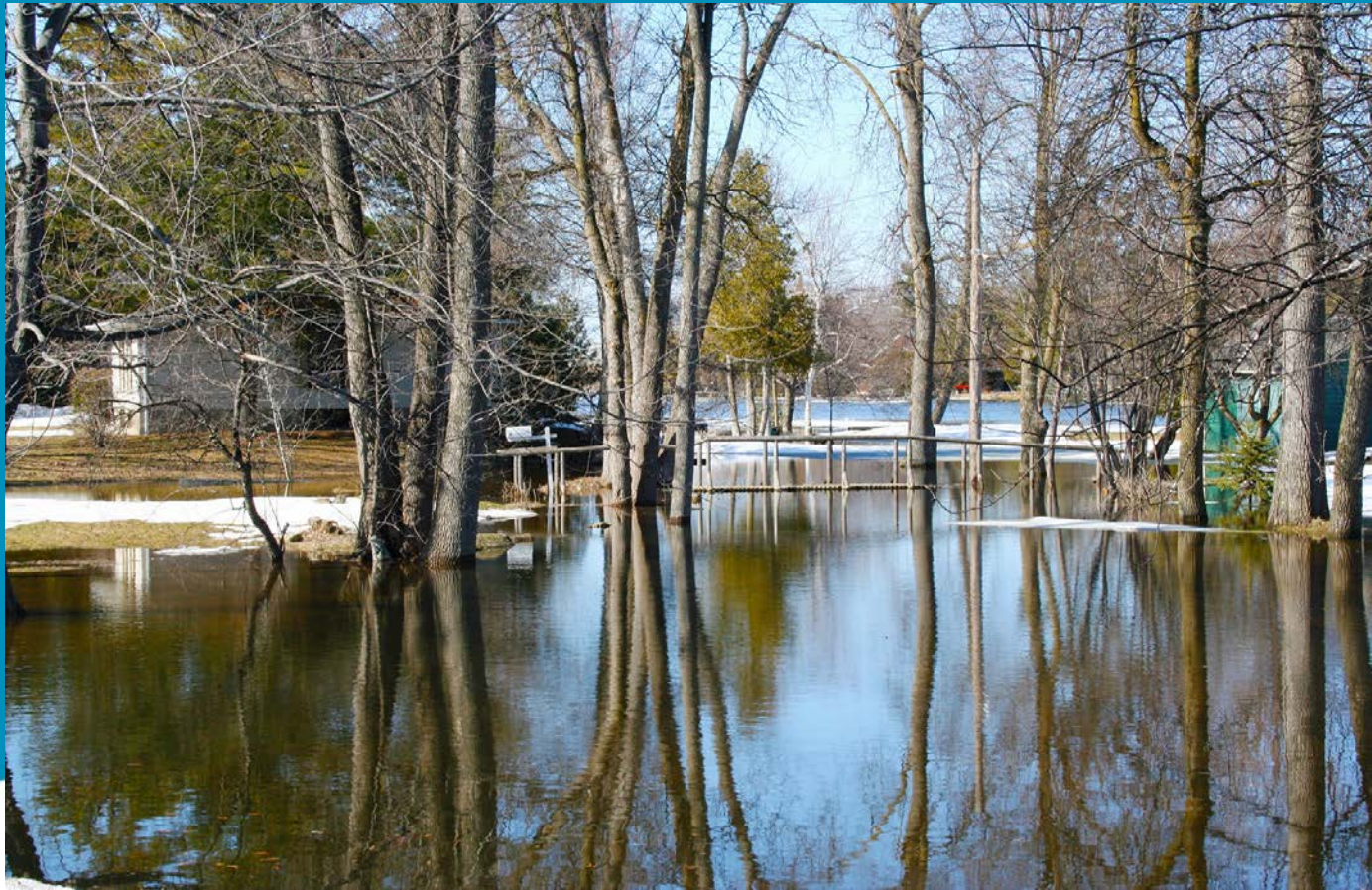
Pieter Leenhouts
Immediate Past Chair

Kristin Strackerjan
Chair

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Marissa Grondin
Recording Secretary

RVCA Flood Forecasting and Warning Program





2023 Flood Contingency Plan



Prepared for: Municipalities and other partners/agencies in the Rideau Valley Watershed

Prepared by: Brian Stratton, P. Eng., RVCA Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator

Date: February 2023

RVCA Flood Contingency Plan



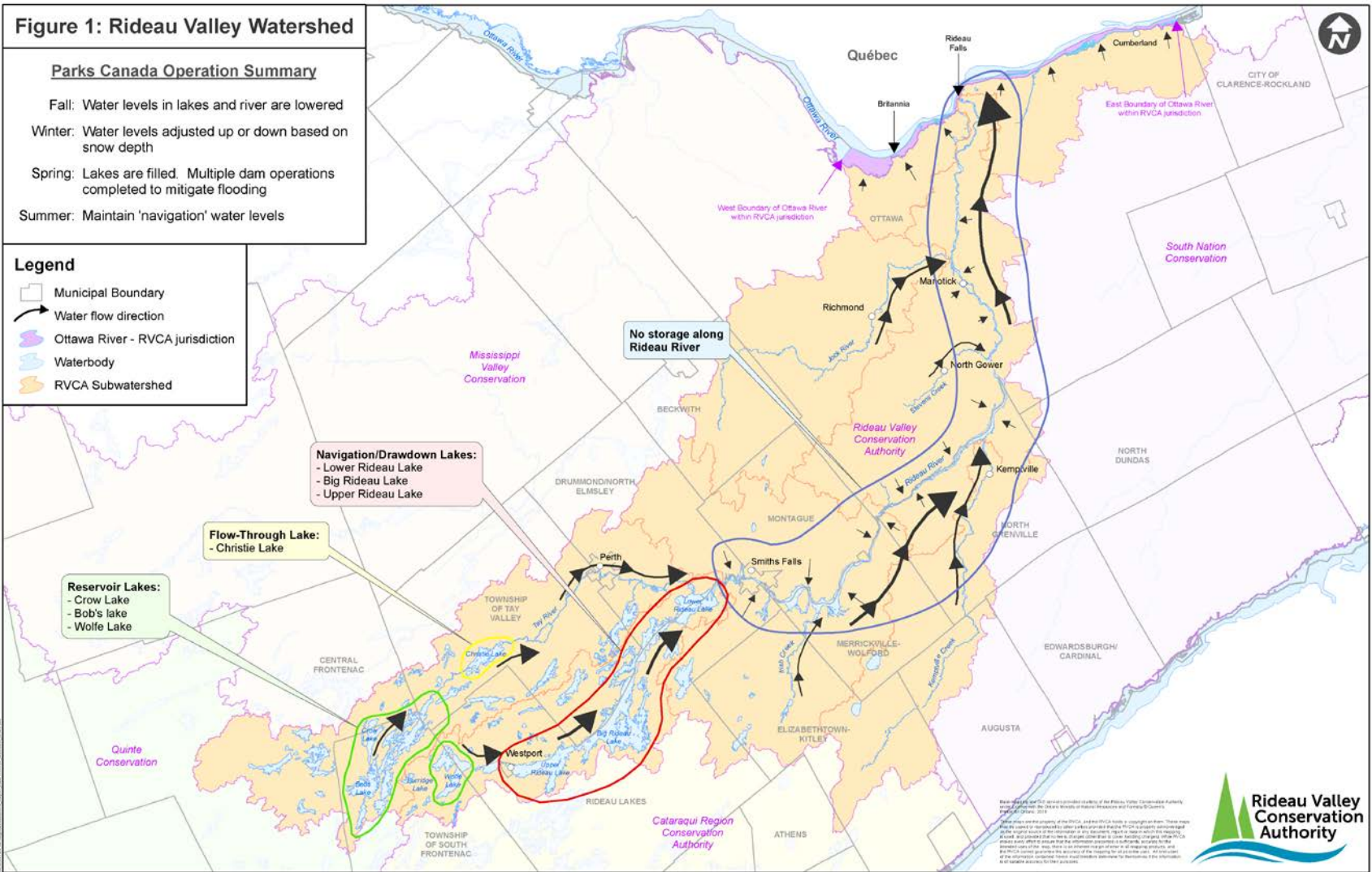
Program Goal:

- (i) provide an estimate of the flood potential in the Rideau River watershed, including the Ottawa River, at recognized “flood vulnerable centres” where flood conditions are relatively predictable and,
- (ii) based on that estimate, give sufficient advance warning to the designated municipal officials and members of the public in order that appropriate steps can be taken to minimize the effects of flooding.

Note, the RVCA role in flood combat is limited to ensuring that Authority properties are secure and that Authority water control structures are operated to minimize the impact of high flows.

RVCA Flood Contingency Plan

Figure 1: Rideau Valley Watershed

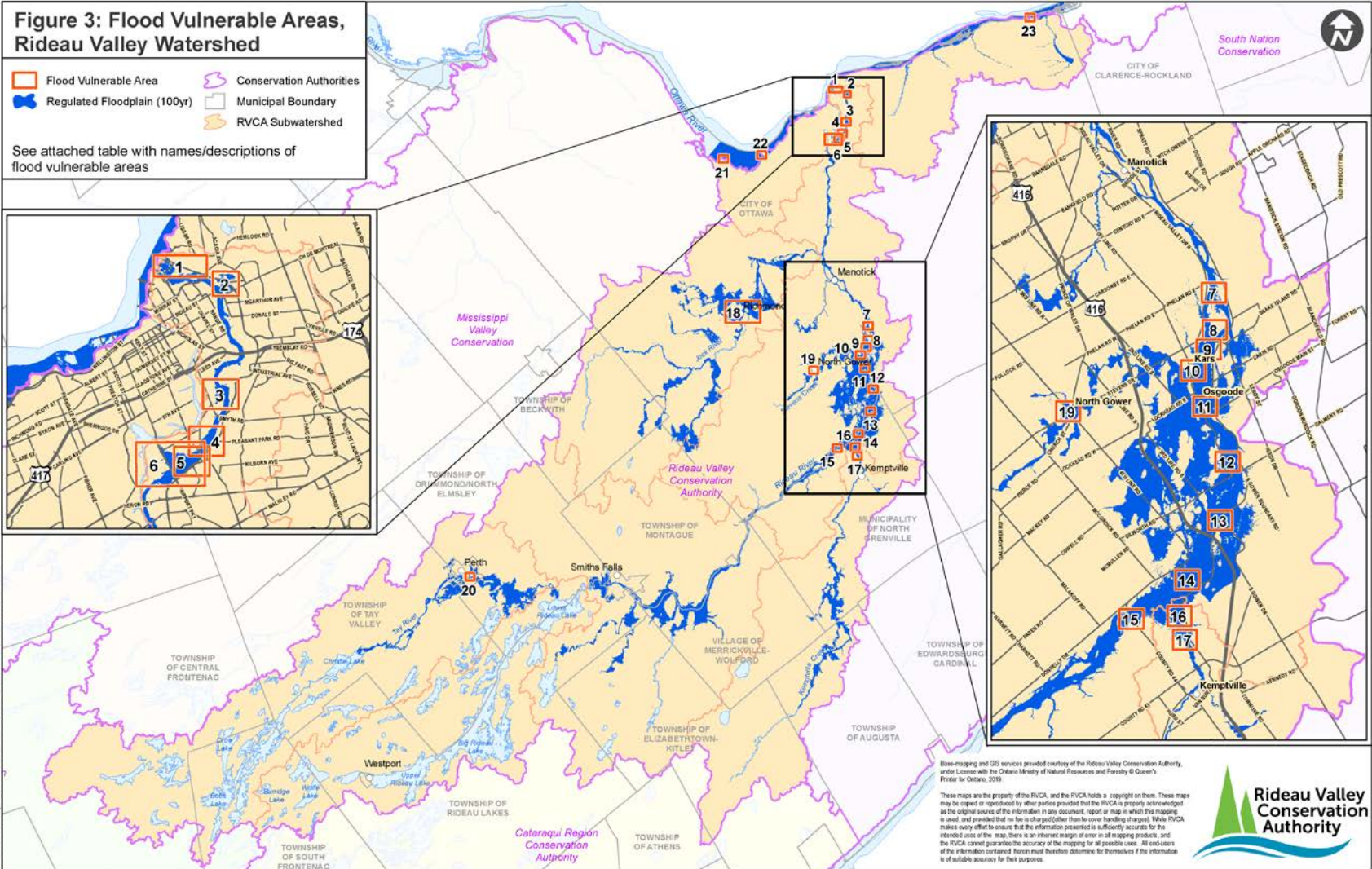


RVCA Flood Contingency Plan

Figure 3: Flood Vulnerable Areas, Rideau Valley Watershed

- Flood Vulnerable Area
- Conservation Authorities
- Regulated Floodplain (100yr)
- Municipal Boundary
- RVCA Subwatershed

See attached table with names/descriptions of flood vulnerable areas



Base-mapping and GIS services provided courtesy of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2019.

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RVCA Flood Contingency Plan



Keys Players:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) / Surface Water Monitoring Centre (SWMC)
- Conservation Authorities
- Municipalities
- Property Owners
- Parks Canada
- City of Ottawa
- Environment and Climate Change Canada - Meteorological Service of Canada
- Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (**Board**) & Ottawa River Regulating Committee (**Committee**) & Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat (**Secretariat**)

Data Collection



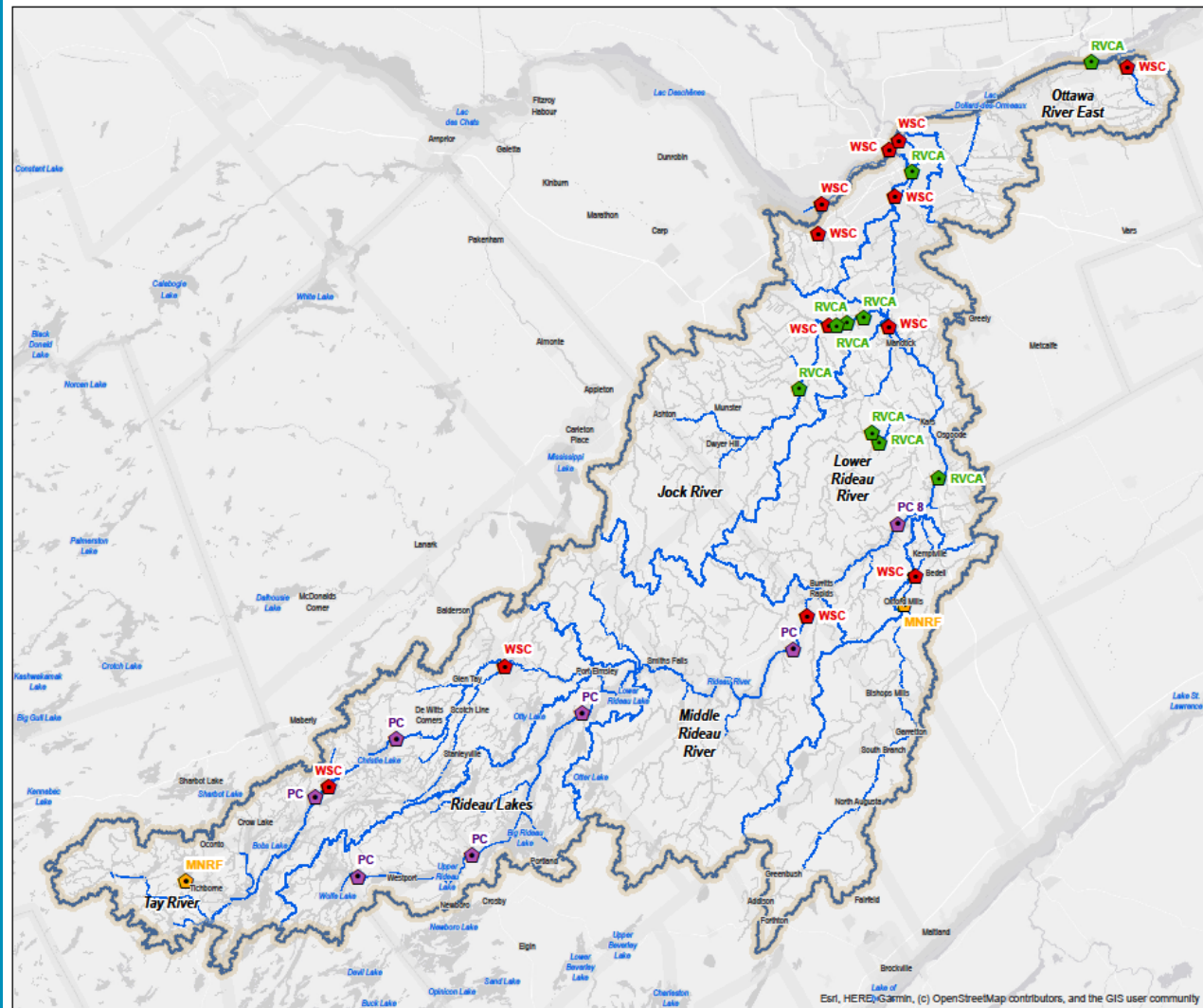
Water Level Gauge Network

Operators:

- Parks Canada
- Water Survey Canada
- MNRF
- RVCA

Active Network:

- 23 real-time gauges
- 7 daily-interval gauges
- RVCA network targeted within flood vulnerable regions



Data Collection



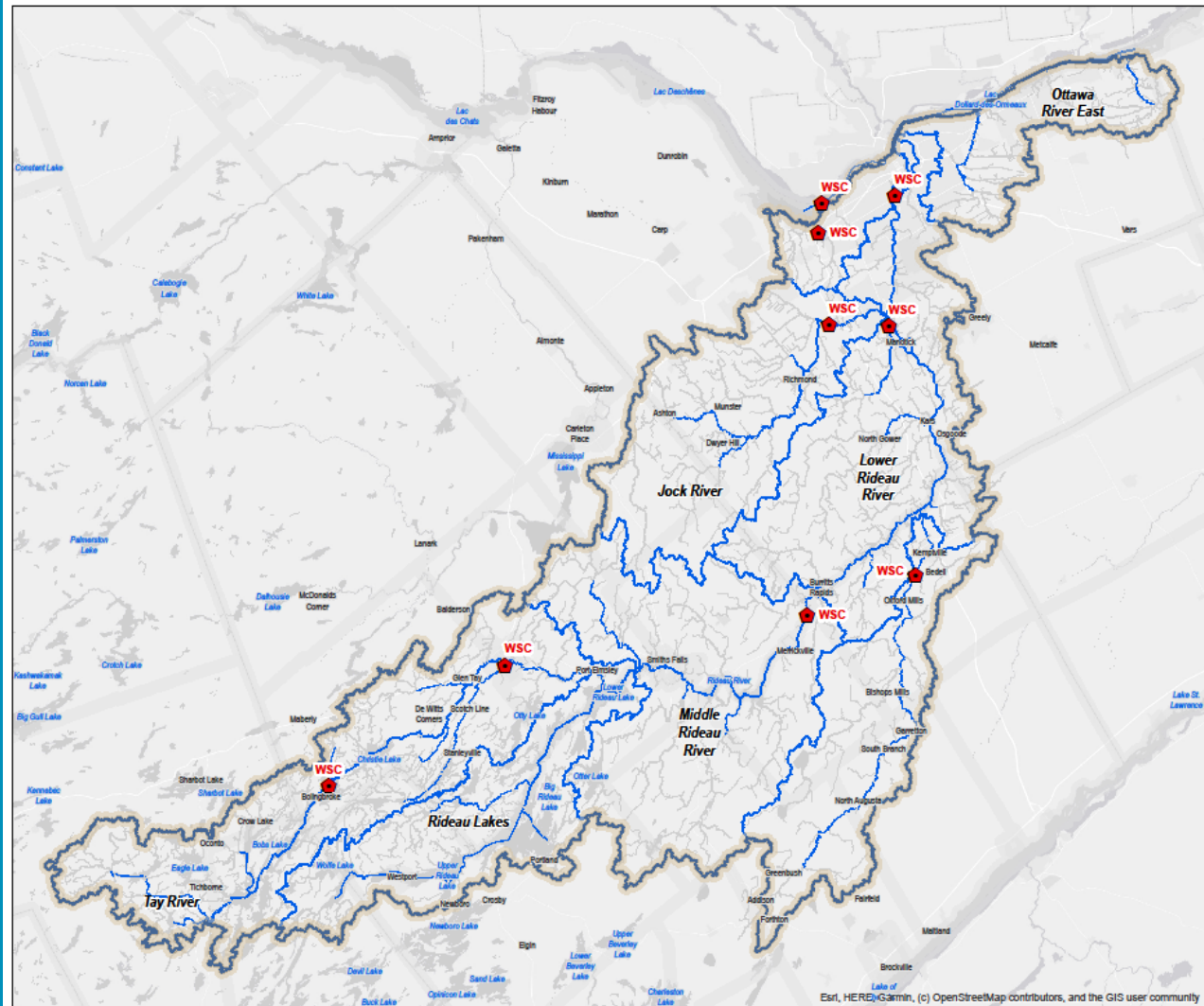
Stream Flow Gauge Network

Operator:

- Water Survey Canada

Active Network:

- 6 active flow gauges
- 3 active water level gauges; rating curves in development



Data Collection

Snow Pack (Snow Surveying)

- RVCA actively monitors snow accumulation at 6 sites across the watershed (biweekly)
- PC monitors snow conditions at 2 sites in the upper watershed (biweekly)
- 40+ Year Record (RVCA)



Data Collection



Real-Time Weather Monitoring

Operators:

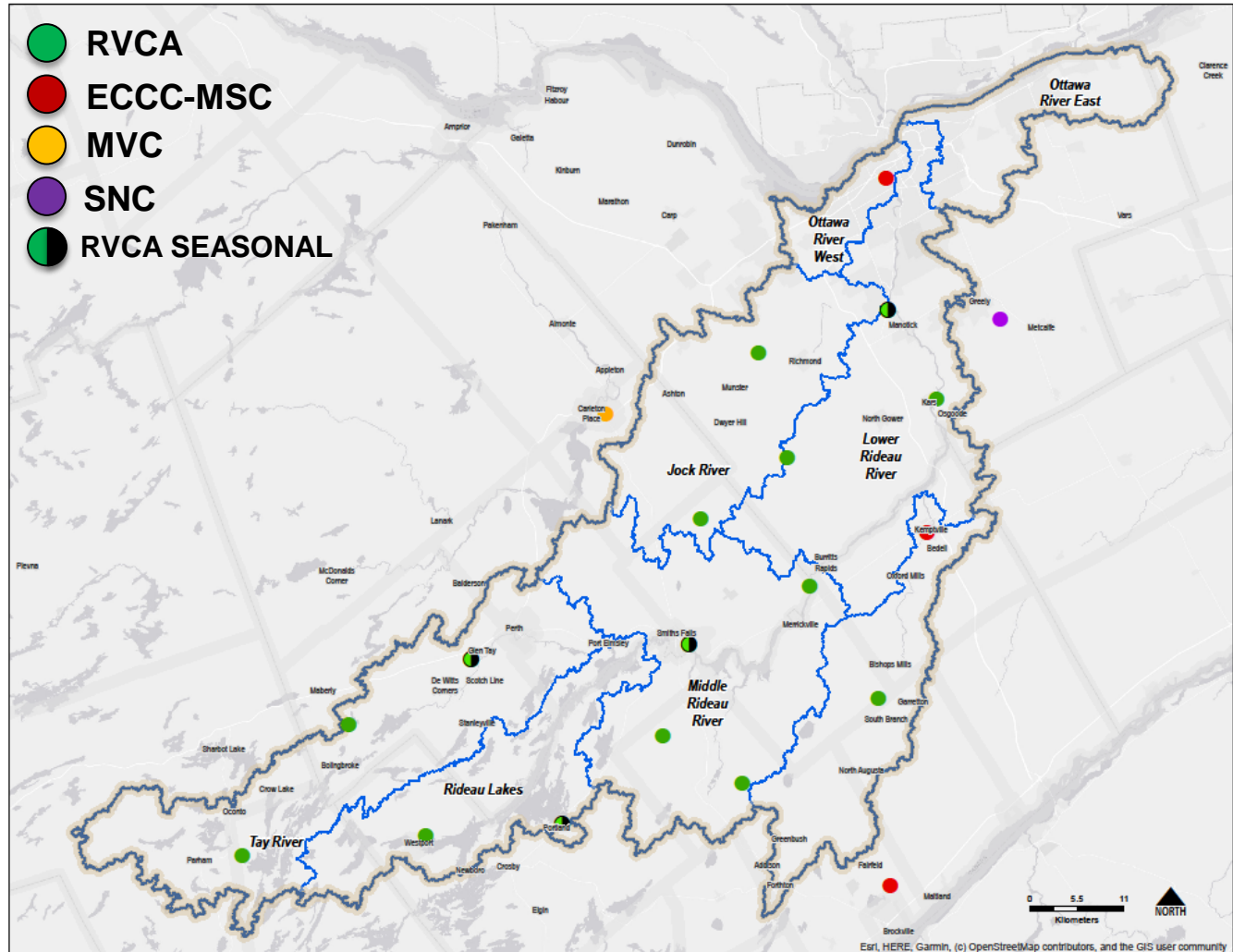
- ECCC-MSC
- RVCA
- MVC
- SNC

Active Network:

- 16 real-time stations
- 4 seasonal rain gauges

RVCA Stations (2023):

- Andrewsville
- Bobs Lake
- Frankville
- Kars
- Mansfield
- Marlborough
- Motts Mills
- Montague
- Rainbow Lake
- Snowdons Corners
- Westport



Data Collection



Flow and Water Level Prediction



- 1) On-going/daily communications with Parks Canada
Ontario Waterways Unit

- 2) RVCA streamflow prediction model
 - existing model
 - new HEC-HMS based model

- 3) Historical Information

Communications



- Annual updates to contact list and flood warning plan
- Flood messaging

Watershed Conditions Statement



Water Safety Statement



- When there are conditions that could be unsafe such as elevated flows and unstable ice

Flood Outlook Statement

- Highlight current conditions of the watershed and set the stage for the possibility of flooding if the right weather patterns develop

Watershed Conditions Statement



- **Potential for flooding exists** from an approaching weather system — heavy rain or warm air causing a rapid snow melt



- **When flooding is imminent or occurring**



- **Statement issued when conditions return to normal state**

Flood Messages



Precipitation, Mild Temperatures May Increase Water Levels and Flows and Cause Unstable Ice Across Watershed

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(WCS – R01/2022)

February 16, 2022 – Environment Canada is forecasting mild temperatures, with 15 to 25 mm of rain starting late today through Thursday afternoon followed by much cooler temperatures and possible snowfall accumulations of 10 to 20 cm of snow before mid-day on Friday. This weather event will likely result in elevated water runoff to all waterways because of snow melt and high rainfall amounts before freezing up again.



Although no significant flooding is anticipated, water levels and flows are expected to increase in all waterways in the Rideau Valley Watershed. Depending on how much snow melts and rain falls, residents who are adjacent to the smaller creeks and streams are advised to keep a close watch on water levels and flows and should take the necessary precautions to protect their property, such as:

- Ensuring sump pump is clear, in good working condition and has a backwater valve
- Ensuring easy access to a portable backup generator and pump

With the expected temperature changes and increase in water levels and flows in the coming days, ice cover on lakes, ditches, local streams and rivers will be unstable. Extreme caution should be exercised by everyone when near local waterbodies. Parents should inform their children of the risks and provide appropriate supervision.

This watershed conditions statement is in effect until Wednesday February 23, 2022 at 5 PM or until an update has been issued.

-end-

For more information, contact:

Brian Stratton
RVCA Manager Engineering Services
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1141
brian.stratton@rvca.ca

DISTRIBUTION

- Agencies and Municipalities
- Media
- Watershed Residents
- Webpage
- Social Media
- Phone Mailbox

What Lies Ahead for Spring 2023



Key Drivers for flooding:

SNOW PACK

TEMPERATURE

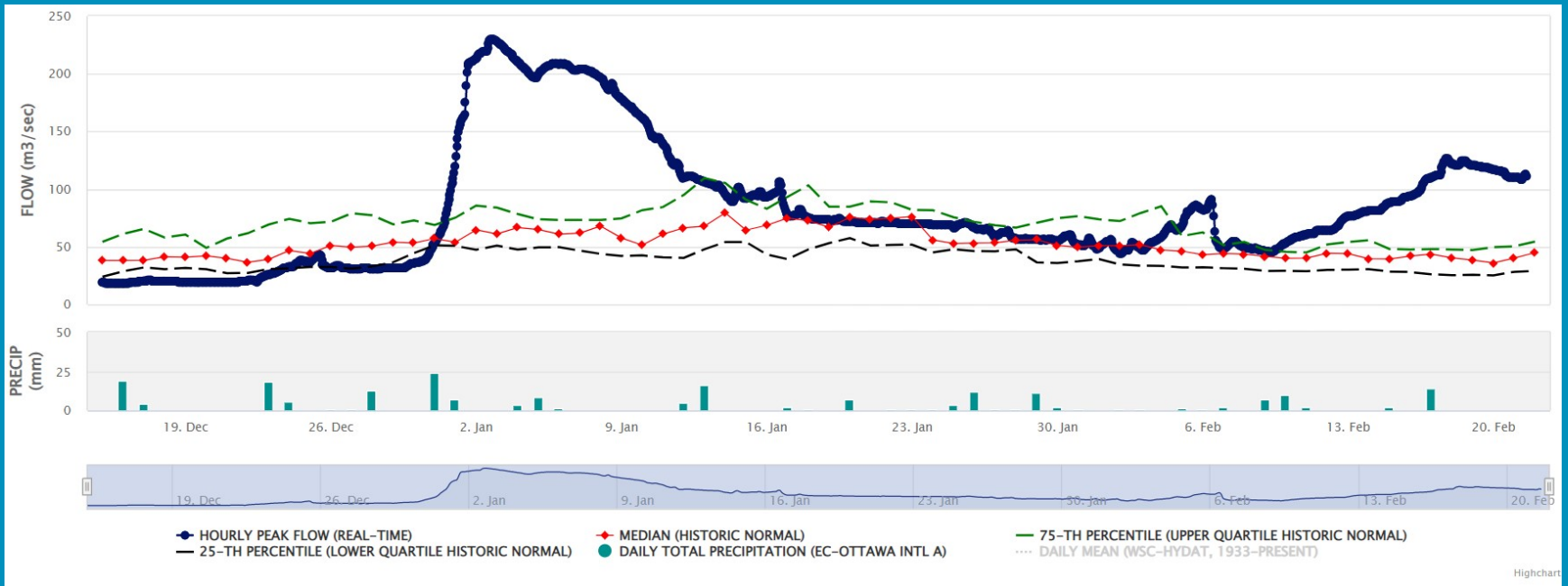
PRECIPITATION

BASE CONDITIONS

Rideau River



Flow on Jan 2nd;
230 CMS



Reservoir Lakes



Parks Canada

Water Management InfoNet

Water levels

Water management updates

Drawdown

Available Draft

Local conservation authorities

Frequently asked water management questions

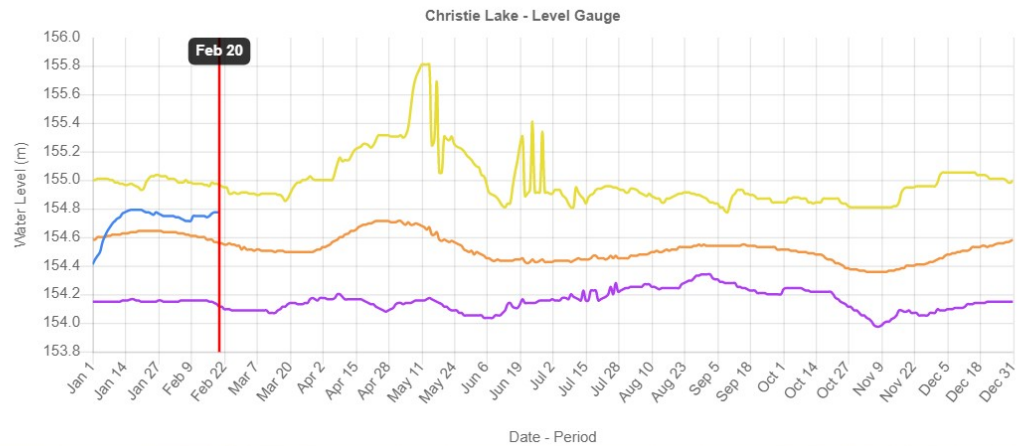
Weather

Contact us

Water Levels

Christie Lake

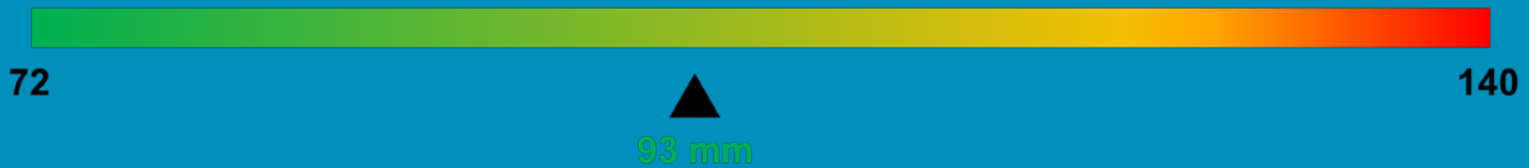
Graph Table



Snow Monitoring Results (Feb 15th)



Historic Peak SWE Range [NORTH] - mm



Historic Peak SWE Range [SOUTH] - mm



What Lies Ahead for Spring 2023



Key Drivers for flooding:

SNOW PACK - good shape

TEMPERATURE - ??

PRECIPITATION - ??

BASE CONDITIONS – water levels slightly elevated