

**DECK FOR GREENBELT WEST / REGIONAL PLANNING ZOOM CALL**

**RE COWA: THE COALITION OF ONTARIO  
WATERSHED ALLIANCES**

---

**Ontario  
Headwaters** 

The Ontario Headwaters Institute works to protect Ontario's watersheds, their natural heritage, and receiving waters such as the Great Lakes, as described at [www.ontarioheadwaters.ca](http://www.ontarioheadwaters.ca).

**January 20, 2023**

## THE COALITION OF ONTARIO WATERSHED ALLIANCES

COWA's mission is to “make watershed planning the basis of further land use development in Ontario, whether urban, rural, or remote, in order to protect our waters, natural heritage, and agricultural lands for a sustainable future”.



Per [www.cowa.ca](http://www.cowa.ca):

- The OHI sees the Coalition as a networking hub, seeking to help the members work with and learn from each other;
- The Coalition will seek to facilitate increased inter- and intra-watershed collaboration.
- Mission and operating principles can be found under the tab “Join”.

## UPDATE

- We started with 10 members in September 2022.
- The next 3 months were absorbed by Bill 23 and its aligned insults to regional planning, environmental safeguards, local democracy, and the right to legal recourse, followed by a personal case of Christmas COVID. Yeah.

## NEXT

We are now operating at full blast and anticipate:

- Ten new members by the end of January;
- A Zoom meeting Jan 30 or 31;
- The launch of Coalition activities in February;
- The purchase of an OHI drone to help COWA and its members; and,
- We've applied for a Canada Summer Jobs position for COWA.

# SYNERGIES BETWEEN COWA AND GROUPS ON THIS CALL

## Core issues:

- Complementing concerns about land use planning, where source water and sewage treatment are often left to the end of local planning, with those on watershed security;
- Increased focus on aquatic ecosystems, a key impact from climate change; and
- Another framework to support agricultural & natural heritage lands.

## Early Priorities:

- Support for Conservation Authorities
- The amalgamation of A Place to Grow with the PPS, the Provincial Policy Statement

Both the GREN and West Greenbelt Coalition are members,  
and any group on this call is welcome to join and help us  
heighten the dialogue on watershed security in Ontario.



[andrew@ontarioheadwaters.ca](mailto:andrew@ontarioheadwaters.ca)  
416 231 9484