

Full Authority
16 January 2020
Agenda Item: 16

General Manager's Report

The General Manager's report provides a brief update for the Board Members prior to the Board meeting bringing forward additional information and/or progress on initiatives or current issues for the Board members consideration.

1. Watershed Management

Current Watershed Conditions

- Warmer than average temperatures combined with precipitation received at the end of 2019 and early 2020 has not had a significant impact on water levels to date. However, the precipitation has resulted in higher flow rates than average for the winter season at this time.
- Current seven day forecast includes precipitation in the form of rainfall to be received in the watershed on two successive days with temperatures once again above normal. Rainfall received during this period will extend the present flow rate well into the middle of January.

Anticipated Conditions

- The CVCA anticipates normal winter patterns and seasonal temperatures will return to the CVCA watershed. This will reduce flows eventually to average for this time of year.
- However, the rainfall received this fall and early winter in all probability has sustained at the minimum an average water table. Additional rainfall during the winter could easily saturate ground conditions prior to the spring freshet. As a result, this is a situation that could be considered one of the foundational factors to contribute to higher than average spring flooding. There are other spring conditions that would still have to occur in conjunction with ground conditions in order for flooding to reach recorded levels in the past couple of years. In the final analysis, it is the sequence of weather events combined with pre-existing conditions that is critical.

Marmora Dam Repairs

- After contacting Watech Services subsequent to the November Board meeting, Watech Services has recently submitted a proposal for the CVCA regarding the temporary fence barrier for the Marmora dam.
- The barrier would seal off both ends of the main sluiceway (west end) of the dam, eliminating access to the area which needs repairs with the installation of a security barrier on the deck of the dam and fencing at the foot of the dam where the public, especially children and young adults access the underside of the dam. In addition, signage would be installed at the appropriate locations warning of the danger.
- By taking this step, the CVCA will ensure public safety has been addressed and the Authority has undertaken its due diligence, thereby reducing liability issues and concerns.
- Staff have reviewed the proposal and are in agreement with Watech's proposed solution.
- The installation of the temporary barrier may occur during the winter if there is a weather period that would be conducive for the work. Otherwise, the installation will have to occur after the spring freshet has receded where the work could be safely completed.
- The total cost for the signage, security barrier and fencing is \$16,850. The project costs will be funded through the CVCA's reserves. Should WECA funding be available this year, staff will submit an application to cover 50% of the expenses.
- In addition, staff will also investigate other alternatives for funding through our local MPP offices.
- Staff have also recently noticed drainage covers have been removed by vandals and will need to be replaced to eliminate a trip hazard.

2. Administration

- A short term contract of 6 weeks has been given to Cheryl Rees to complete the benthic invertebrate identification for the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority and the CVCA's samples from 2019.
- The contract is fully funded through payment collected from the LTRCA and a training incentive placement agreement through Career Edge in Trenton. The Career Edge funding is through the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.
- An RFP for audit services for the CVCA has been sent to three accounting firms that also conduct business for surrounding conservation authorities.
- A further three accounting firms were contacted. However, they indicated they were not interested in submitting a proposal.
- The deadline for the submissions are the 6th of February and at that time, the CVCA will be able to select an auditor for next year.

3. Conservation Areas

- The CVCA has recently received a donation of \$5,000 explicitly for the Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area.
- The donor has stated he is willing to assist the CVCA with the protection of CRCA since it aligns with his objective to protect the environment. Callaghan's is an area which has been designated an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and has been under assault from a segment of the public that has caused environmental damage. An ANSI is an official designation by the provincial Government of Ontario applied to contiguous geographical regions within the province that have geological or ecological features which are significantly representative provincially, regionally, or locally.
- CVCA staff will review the situation at Callaghan's and formulate a plan for the donated funds this year. This is also an excellent opportunity to reach out to other interested stakeholders and promote Callaghan's for its intended purpose.