

Full Authority
16 May 2019
Agenda Item: 15

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

2019 Spring Freshet – Flood Warning

- CVCA issued Flood Warning on the 19th April 2019.
- All municipalities' emergency coordinators/contacts were called to confirm the warning had been received.
- Flood Warning downgraded to Flood Watch on the 2nd of May 2019 – Total duration of the warning was 14 days.
- Approximately 300 calls were received during the warning.
- Website expanded to include more levels and flows than in previous years and revised format for public to compare daily changes.
- Website Stats: 7,818 Visitors and 45,345 Visits.
- Radio Interviews were conducted with CJBQ and Bancroft Radio Station.
- Informal meetings/communications held with key municipal staff – ie: Marmora and Lake Flood Emergency Coordinator
- Newspaper Articles appeared in Belleville, Bancroft, local newspapers – Flood and Provincial Cuts.
- 10 day average peak flow at Marmora dam during the warning was enough to fill approximately 72,000 Olympic size swimming pools
- At peak flow of 230 cm/s, takes approximately 11 seconds to fill a pool

2019 Spring Freshet Observations

- 2nd highest flow recorded on the Crowe River at Marmora – 230 cubic meters per second (cm/s).
- Levels and flows receded, but at an unusually slower rate than observed in prior years. Recorded 6 days above 200cm/s and 14 days above 100cm/s – which results in residents having to contend with flooding over a longer duration.
- Past 5 year trend continues, yearly floods exceeding “average” floods of prior 10 year period.

- Many people calling during flood appeared to be new, having moved into the watershed recently and therefore they have never experienced flooding.
- The North River watershed did not experience flooding to the same magnitude as the Crowe or Beaver Creek watershed.
- Beaver Creek recorded all time high flows and therefore concerns with St. Ola dam.
- Number of residences flooded, road washouts, 3 to 4,000 sandbags distributed in Marmora alone
- Full staff complement allowed three shifts, helping to reduce staff fatigue, keep overtime hours to a minimum and assist with trying to keep up with normal daily workload and routines.
- 10 day average peak flow at Marmora dam during the warning was enough to fill approximately 72,000 Olympic size swimming pools
- At peak flow of 230 cm/s, takes approximately 11 seconds to fill a pool

Anticipated Conditions

- Since the watershed is saturated, there is a possibility that an extreme weather event (thunderstorm) could easily place upward pressure on levels and flows creating a second peak or flooding event depending on the timing and severity.
- Stop logs are systematically being replaced according to conditions to maintain summer recreational levels.
- Safety booms may require maintenance – debris removal and possible reconnection of booms by staff. If not possible, may have to hire O.D.S. Marine
- Cattail mats have been a significant issue for residents on Crowe Lake and Crowe River downstream of Marmora. As of yet, the mats have not posed a problem at the Marmora Dam. However, as flows recede, there is a greater risk of mats getting caught in the dam. This could necessitate hiring contractor to remove the mats if staff are not able to do so (size/flow concerns).
- CVCA staff will continue to monitor weather conditions and record daily water level and flows as per the flood forecasting and warning operations cycle.

2. CVCA – Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Project Update

- Installation of safety booms at Allan Mills dam and Belmont dam is complete.
- Current CVCA projects were submitted for review by the WECI Committee.
- At this time, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staff have confirmed that some WECI funding remains in place and a list of projects are waiting for final funding approval.

- Should CVCA repair projects not be funded, staff recommend the Board consider discussing whether to proceed with the Marmora Dam repair or not – estimated to be \$21,000.

3. Programs

- CVCA had applied for two students from MNRF and 3 students through the Federal Canada Summer Jobs Grant to complete the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network program this year.
- MNRF has eliminated all student funding and the CVCA qualified for only one Federal position.
- Fortunately, the help of Fleming College, two volunteers have committed enough time to allow the program to be implemented.
- In addition, the CVCA has agreed to a placement for an international student from Fleming and in addition to his course requirements, the CVCA will utilize this student to help fill any gaps in the Benthic program.

4. Administration

I will be attending a General Managers' meeting on the 13th of May to discuss a number of topics but with a focus on funding cuts, government relations, flooding, EBR postings and Source Water Protection.