

**Full Authority**  
**17 January 2019**  
**Agenda Item: 14**

**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*

- Water levels and flows in the watershed have adjusted to winter seasonal norms in the month of February.
- Therefore, flood storage capacity in the water controlled lakes has been attained.
- Prior to the recent winter storms, a brief warm up has contributed to a slight increase in flows and levels.
- Flow at Marmora Dam is currently at 19.0 cms (cubic meters per second).

*Anticipated Conditions*

- Staff will continue to maintain lake levels at winter norms as weather conditions permit.
- Should long range weather forecasts and seasonal temperature norms come to fruition, there could be some upward pressure on levels and flows prior to the spring freshet.
- CVCA staff will continue to monitor weather conditions and record daily water level and flows as per the flood forecasting and warning operations cycle, which will determine stop log adjustment activity.

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

- Installation of safety booms at Allan Mills dam and Belmont dam is progressing.
- Fabrication of the anchor blocks is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2019.
- CVCA staff have met with O.D.S. Marine for a pre-job site meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February to discuss timelines, logistics and review minor adjustments to the installation of the safety booms.

- In addition, site meetings were conducted at to verify field issues such as terrain, access, equipment, manpower and public interruption.
- For example, the CVCA's right of way to Belmont dam is through well treed private property. The access road has been in existence since the construction of the dam and has been used by the CVCA's staff and its contractors a number of times. Most recently, it was used to bring in drilling equipment to allow for the installation of rock anchor bolts.
- However, the installation of the anchor blocks will require larger trucks and a crane to lift the 6,000 lb blocks and equipment. As a result, some minor road maintenance will be required.
- The installation is scheduled for the first week of March and will be completed depending on water flow and weather conditions.
- Project expenditures are in line with the budget and a report has been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

### **3. Administration**

- Verbal update will be provided regarding the Provincial Transfer Payments and Source Water Protection Funding at the meeting.
- Chair Redden and I attended a Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. The CVCA was well received and HBM Council stressed both organizations have and need to continue to send a clear message to the Provincial government regarding funding for the CVCA.
- Chair Redden and I fielded questions regarding the proposed 2019 Draft Budget after a presentation was made to Council
- Both Chair Redden and I are pleased with the results of the meetings and thank the member municipalities for their invitations and participation in the 2019 Budget approval process.
- As well, I attended the Wollaston Township Council meeting later in the day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. Wollaston Council was very receptive and pleased I was able to attend Council to provide some basic information about the CVCA and answer any questions they may have had about the 2019 Draft Budget.
- Edgar Storms, Stirling-Rawdon's CVCA Board Representative has also been invited to attend a Stirling-Rawdon Finance Personnel Committee at a later date. I will accompany Mr. Storms to the meeting.
- A copy of the HBM presentation is provided at the end of this report for your information at the request of the Chair. The Wollaston presentation was modified slightly.

### **4. 2019 Draft Budget**

- An explanation of the CVCA's Budget process is provided as an addendum to assist the Board with further budget deliberations at the February meeting.

## **CVCA Council Presentation**

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority continues to be committed to our core values of conservation, innovation, excellence, collaboration and leadership. Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support of our staff, board of directors, member municipalities, elected officials and many other government and non-government partners.

The 2019 Draft Operations Budget was prepared by staff with the guidance and input of the 2018 CVCA Board of Directors to ensure the CVCA fulfills its mandate to deliver the programs and services as required by the Province of Ontario.

Fortunately, after deliberations and direction by the Board in the fall of 2018, the proposed 2019 Operations Budget has resulted in only a 2% increase to the municipal levy. This increase follows on the heels of prescribed levy increases of 6% for the previous 5 years. The dedication and ongoing support of our member municipalities for the CVCA in these prior years has given the CVCA an opportunity to limit the increase to the 2%.

It is a testament to the hard work of each and every Board member to recognize the needs of the CVCA to remain a viable and significant environmental organization for the benefit of its residents and visitors to the watershed. This is especially true for the area of HBM which is situated in the CVCA jurisdiction since the municipality has a well established environmentally based economy – which is namely the cottage industry and tourism using many natural features, lakes, rivers, wetlands and forests within two hours of the most populous region of Ontario.

Working together, contributing together for the benefit of the environment and the public is the true foundation of a partnership and so much more can be done collectively than working alone. Partnerships simply stretch dollars. I recognize that HBM contributes individually more to the CVCA revenue stream than any other individual municipality. That fact cannot be disputed. However, for every 39 cents contributed, there are 61 cents flowing from your nine other municipal partners to the CVCA to ensure we have the services and programs for the benefit of human activity and the environment. Those services and programs are not only required by the Province, but they would be vital for the watershed even if the Province did not insist the work be done.

For example, in our watershed, economic diversification is relatively narrow. Much of the watershed's development is limited to the cottage industry and tourism. The CVCA's water management program is key to ensure that the environment to attract cottagers and

tourists remains intact or at least the status quo so that environmental degradation doesn't take hold and gain momentum. The program must be consistent for recreational lake levels and it is designed to strike a balance between human activity and environmental health.

What do I mean by the status quo, consistency and protection?

As per the Conservation Authorities Act the CVCA's role is to simply conserve and manage natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. But to what end, what purpose? Well, for our watershed it means conserving or helping nature preserve the natural features that this watershed possesses. Unlike southwestern Ontario, the CVCA still has in its jurisdiction approximately 90 to 95% of its wetlands, rivers, creeks and streams. Southwestern Ontario, in comparison has seen its wetlands reduced by 70% or even more.

Our wetlands are the very backbone of this area's excellent physical condition. They help to mitigate flooding in the spring or absorb excess water at any time in the year and slowly release water in hot dry conditions to maintain lake levels and flows. They are the very essence of life in the watershed and perhaps will prove to be even more important in the future as everyone adapts to extreme weather events. Nature's features and everything living in those lakes and wetlands keep people coming here to see and experience. Nature needs a helping hand and the CVCA's role as your environmental arm will ensure nature will have a voice at the table.

I think of all of our member municipalities, HBM knows and understands the consistent reference the best since there are more water control structures owned and operated by the CVCA here than any where else in the watershed. But, just as a reminder, operating dams is our primary function. Always has been and always will be. Keeping the lake levels within a regulated level keeps cottagers and tourists happy, coming back and buying cottages and homes in HBM and that's a good thing for the vitality of this municipality, your neighbouring municipalities and your member municipalities in the CVCA watershed.

There are other services and programs I could mention, but the main point I would like to make, is that a 2% increase in the CVCA's Operating Budget is good for the organization since it is an investment in the "tools" to keep us operating effectively and efficiently to deliver the services and programs that are vital to maintain the balance between human activity and the environment.

It is a balancing act that we need to get right. Our responsibilities to the Province, our member municipalities and those that live, work and play in this watershed expect us to get it right and this budget, with the support of our member municipalities, keeps us on the right track. Yearly successes over time have and will continue to provide the proof your decisions were the right decisions at the right time.

CVCA's success has been a direct reflection of its member municipalities leadership and commitment year after year for 60 years. Let's work together to keep this watershed's future resilient for the challenges ahead of everyone.