

**Full Authority**  
**25 February 2021**  
**Agenda Item: 14**

**General Manager's Report**

**Background**

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.

**Watershed Management**

*Current Watershed Conditions*

- CVCA winter dam operations have been reasonably quiet at this point in the winter. This reflects the winter pattern to date. Typically, the watershed experiences a January thaw and then a return to wintry conditions for February and as winter begins to wind down, the unpredictability of March predominates.
- Since there has not been a thaw to contend with, the lake levels and flows in the watershed have remained stable with very little variation or concerns from a watershed management perspective. Levels on all lakes in the watershed are currently in the normal winter level range.
- While this is good for minimizing dam operational work, it has not provided much of an opportunity for new staff to practice their skills prior to the spring freshet. If necessary, additional training may have to be completed using "staged" scenarios.

*Anticipated Conditions*

- Additional snowfall has recently added to the snowpack in the watershed. CVCA staff have located new snow survey sites and the data collected about the snowpack (water equivalent) will certainly aid with the management of the spring freshet.
- Once the temperatures return to normal or exceed normal slightly, there could be a slight increase in lake levels and flows in late February or early March. This *may* be indicative of a longer than average spring runoff period.

## *Specific Dam and Lake Issues*

### *Oak Lake*

- Further to high water levels brought to the Authority's attention regarding Oak Lake late in 2020, staff are pleased to report there have been no further blockages and the lake has receded to normal winter levels.

### *Marmora Dam*

- There has been some indication from Orillia Power that they would like to change the operation of the hydro plant at the Marmora dam. The company would like to engage in the practice of ponding and peaking in order to maximize their revenue. Previous owners occasionally would make overtures, but we would reject their request citing a number of upstream and downstream issues with this type of operation.
- Staff and I believe they may persist with their request. As a result, we have also had a meeting with the Water Management Manager and support staff at Trent Severn Waterway to better understand their concerns since they are significant downstream stakeholders.
- Further discussions will occur with Orillia Power as they continue their efforts to bring both generators online. A recent request has come from Orillia Power to make adjustments to the operating agreement. A meeting has been scheduled for next week to initiate the discussions.

## **Conservation Areas Update**

### *McGeachie Conservation Area*

The Hastings Development Trails Inc. promotional video for snowshoeing will be going ahead later in February. The video had been delayed due to COVID restrictions. The cross country skiing video has been targeted for early March (weather and COVID permitting).

The trails are continuously being groomed by a volunteer. The CVCA has received approximately \$400.00 in donations to cover the groomers expenses. As stated previously, it is expected the donations will come primarily from the cross country skiing community. McGeachie Conservation Area is also receiving good press coverage in local papers.