

**Full Authority**  
**20 April 2017**  
**Agenda Item: 10**

**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. Current Water Level and Flow Conditions**

- Spring freshet conditions continue to persist in the Crowe Valley watershed after the first peak in March (which was 102 cms – flow recorded just downstream of the Marmora dam)
- Stop logs had been replaced in all dams in the watershed after levels and flows had receded significantly
- However, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, the watershed has recorded 52.6mm of rain at Glen Alda, 75.5mm of rain at Belmont Lake and 65.5mm at the CVCA office
- These amounts, while not extremely high for the spring season, have contributed to a watershed basin which was already saturated and “full” from the previous snowmelt in late February and precipitation in March.
- Therefore, a second peak has surpassed the first runoff and has now been recorded at 128cms at the time of this report's submission.
- A Flood Watch was issue to all member municipalities, uploaded to the CVCA website and distributed to the media on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April – an updated version was released prior to the Easter Long Weekend
- Flooding has been minimal to date, affecting only traditionally low lying areas at this time
- For the Board's reference and comparison, the 2014 flood peaked at approximately 230 cms in the Crowe River, almost twice the current flow
- No significant rainfall is expected until Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend. Staff are cautiously optimistic a peak will have occurred throughout the watershed prior to the arrival of the additional rainfall. However, even with only small amounts of rainfall, it could easily reverse any downward trend and

possibly increase levels and flows. At the very least, any additional rainfall will prolong high water levels and flow conditions well into the spring.

- The pattern which has developed this spring *may* be a harbinger of future spring conditions and situations as a result of the current impacts of climate change.

## **2. CVCA Budget – Levy Appeal**

- The CVCA has become aware a Marmora and Lake Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April received a staff report from their CAO regarding the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority Levy
- The Council Motion is as follows:

*MOTION2017Apr4-82*

*Moved by: S. Fraser*

*Seconded by: E.Jones*

*Whereas Section 27(8) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, as amended states “a municipality against which a levy is made under this section may appeal the levy to the Mining and Lands Commissioner as appointed under the Ministry of Natural Resources Act, 1996, c.1, Sched. M, s.47(4);*

*And Whereas the Municipality of Marmora and Lake has concerns over the amount of the levy and the apportionment;*

*Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the council of the Municipality of Marmora and direct the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Solicitor, M. John Ewart, to file an appeal under Section 27(8) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 as amended; and*

*Further that the Municipality of Marmora and Lak engage the services of Collins Barrow to carry out a financial review of the 2017 Budget of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority; and*

*Further that the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen be requested to share 50% of the Legal and Auditing costs.*

*Carried*

- The above is an excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of the Council of Marmora and Lake held on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:00pm posted on the Marmora and Lake website – [www.marmoraandlake.ca](http://www.marmoraandlake.ca). The minutes are located

under the Council tab and subsequently under the minutes section. Recording Secretary is Clerk Tonia Bennett.

- The Office of the Ontario Mining and Lands Commissioner (OMLC) is an agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. It has the legislated responsibility to rule on disputes involving a number of Ontario Acts, including the Conservation Authorities Act. The office is an independent court.
- Appeals to the Mining and Lands Commissioner require the submission of a letter outlining the case.
- Once filed, the OMLC's normal procedure would be to issue an Order to File documentation to the parties, which will likely take a couple of months for both of the parties to fulfill (the filing of any and all written materials that would be relied upon by the parties in the event the appeal proceeds to a hearing).
- Therefore, at this time, the only option for the Board is to wait for communication from the OMLC as it will trigger the next steps for the CVCA.
- Mediation may be presented by the OMLC as an option to resolve the issue.
- If mediation is amenable for both parties but fails to resolve the issue, then a date for the hearing will be determined.
- Based on other conservation authorities' experiences, the process could take a number of months before the appeal is heard and a decision rendered. This may have budget implications for the CVCA.

### **3. Climate Change**

Staff recently attended a cap and trade seminar held in Campbellford on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

The seminar provided valuable background information and generally outlined the opportunity for the CVCA to participate in a cap and trade system. Provincial protocols and criteria is currently being developed by the government and it is expected that it will be done by the fall of this year.

Briefly, the CVCA would be able to "sell" its carbon offset capabilities to emitters of carbon who are not able to meet the Provincial limitations. This would be done through the cap and trade process. The carbon sinks for the CVCA would be all of our conservation areas. The Provincial criteria will determine if properties would qualify as a seller/supplier for emitters. For example, is the forest permanent, it must be maintained for a certain length of time, will it be monitored, can the carbon sink capabilities be increased and etcetera.

In addition, it appears the Provincial government may rely on a number of different agencies as well to assist the public with information and guidance to meet the protocols. Conservation authorities were included in the list.

#### **4. Conservation Ontario Meeting – 3 April 2017**

No additional information was made available at this meeting regarding the CA Act Review.

#### **5. Job Sharing**

Progress has been made to job share with the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority regarding the CVCA SWP position and its responsibilities.

Interviews will be held later in April with a hopeful start date early in May.