

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

- Water levels and flows in the autumn have remained close to average following the extremely wet summer this year.
- However, since wetlands and groundwater levels were not drawn down as they were in the drought the watershed experienced in 2016, the precipitation we have received recently has increased levels and flows in a relatively short period of time.
- As a result of recent weather patterns, the Crowe watershed is once again in a "full state" with levels and flows increasing significantly in the past few days resulting in the issuance of a Water Safety Statement.
- Levels and flows should be receding to seasonal norms by the end of next week and the fall draw down process should be well under way.

2. Monitoring Equipment

- CVCA staff assisted with the installation of monitoring equipment at the McGeachie Conservation Area at the end of September.
- Some training will be required to use the equipment and the Authority is hopeful the training will be offered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry either later this year or early in the new year.

3. Conservation Authorities Act Review

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry review of the Conservation Authorities Act has taken another significant step forward. The Act has been

introduced into the Provincial legislature for the third time and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry is hopeful it will be passed and given final approval early in the new year. The Minister was adamant the Act will be passed before the spring election.

- With the passing of the Act, the CVCA and other small rural conservation authorities are hopeful the changes to the Act will be the first step for the province to address financial inequalities. Although the funding model is not in the Act, the Ministry has acknowledged in the process of public consultation, there is a strong desire to rectify funding for conservation authorities, especially those without the population base to support authorities.

4. Additional Notes

WECI Tour

- The Water Erosion Control and Infrastructure Committee conducted their tour of the three locations in the CVCA watershed. Marmora, Belmont and Allan Mills dams were chosen to highlight past, present and future projects. Six of the seven WECI members were present for the tour.
- It was an excellent opportunity not only to showcase the recent achievements of the CVCA, but, the members were keen to learn as much detail about the projects and challenges the CVCA must tackle to have WECI projects completed. A good dialogue occurred at every site and the members offered positive comments and ideas to help the CVCA with its future projects. As well, because of discussions at our sites, the Committee is going to investigate the possibility of potential workshops and establishing a forum for conservation authority dam operations staff to discuss and share job experience.

Eastern Ontario General Manager's Meeting

- 11 General Manager's from eastern Ontario met recently to discuss similar issues impacting those authorities
- A number of topics were discussed, however the most pertinent issue which could impact the CVCA is the concept of assisting other conservation authorities during emergency periods
- This area of concern is most relevant to conservation authorities during flood emergencies because all authorities are stretched to their limit, but none more so

than conservation authorities which have to perform stop log adjustments during a flooding situation.

- These authorities in the east are the Mississippi, Quinte and Crowe Valley.
- There was discussion to support each other during an emergency situation, however, in all likelihood, if one authority is experiencing difficulties (staff shortages/burnout), then the other authorities in the east likely are as well. In these types of scenarios, I suggested partnering with a “sister” conservation authority outside of the eastern region, focusing particularly in the southwest. There have been many examples in the past when eastern Ontario has been severely affected by floods and the southwest has not (and vice-versa) been subjected to the same degree. Therefore, an opportunity exists to assist each other in these situations.
- Kim Gavine, General Manager for Conservation Ontario (CO) was present at the meeting and has stated she will bring the idea forward at a future CO meeting.
- In addition, I brought forward the issue of climate change and that CO and its member conservation authorities need to take clear affirmative action now to prepare for the ongoing impacts on our watersheds. Adaptation preparations must be improved to levels not yet seen. Understanding and planning for the inevitable significant changes has to be addressed now. Even in our watershed, if storm events or drought like conditions continue to intensify or become more frequent, it can and will change how we manage the watershed and those pressures will also mount as the public feels threatened. The CVCA, in conjunction with the pertinent provincial ministries, CO and the rest of the conservation authorities must actively take steps to be prepared.

Appeal Update

- CVCA was recently advised by our solicitor that the pre-hearing meeting for the appeal launched by Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and Marmora & Lake to the Mining and Lands Commissioner has been scheduled for the 8th of January 2018.