

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.

Water Management Update

- Low Water Level One Status declared in the summer remains in effect and has been confirmed by review of recent flow and precipitation.
- Indicators used for declaring Low Water Levels are flow and precipitation data and does not change based on seasonality. The same percentage averages are used to determine what level status should be declared.
- CVCA 3 month precipitation average for September, October and November for the southern portion of the watershed is 73%, only slightly higher than the 70% Level 1 threshold. The norther portion of the watershed is at 85%. However, November averages are significantly lower at 33% and 42% respectively.

Although the Low Water Response Team could end the Level One Status, staff recommend maintaining the status quo to encourage water users to be cognizant of conditions and conserve ground water supplies while it continues to recharge.

- Since all lake levels were within their summer ranges, CVCA staff proceeded to draw down water levels to the respective winter level as per usual
- Some fluctuations occurred throughout the watershed during the draw down process – primarily due to precipitation received and maintenance/repair issues with the Algonquin Power facility at Cordova.
- Staff participated in a full day meeting with representatives from all of the eastern Ontario conservation authorities, the MNR, OMAFRA, MOECC, MMA, Community Emergency Management Coordinators, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS).
 - Discussed state of drought conditions across eastern Ontario
 - Exchanged information, explanation of duties, roles
 - Next steps – how to raise issue as “emergency” – roles and responsibilities of province vs. individuals

- CVCA requested to provide resource information to MNRF to possibly assist with efforts if an emergency is declared.
- Jewell Engineering has contacted CVCA re: Steenburg Lake culvert replacement
 - Culvert has small dam structure connected to it – may require replacement as well
 - May need to consider a small coffer dam while replacement of culvert is undertaken

McGeachie Update

- Lou Young has worked diligently to complete the new trail at McGeachie C.A. As a reminder, Lou had obtained a grant from the Ontario Wildlife Foundation (OWF) specifically for this project and was supplemented with donations from Mr. Pat Stallaert, Griffith and Christina Lloyd and Melanie Gillison
 - Trail completion fulfilled condition placed on sale of property to the CVCA
 - Collaborative effort between a number of stakeholders
 - Youth Rangers from the MNRF in the Bancroft area participated through the Stewardship Youth Rangers Summer Work Project
 - Norwood District High School Forestry Class, let by High School Teachers Mike Sherwin and Linda Coons donated 2 days of their time and hard work to finish the trail
 - Volunteers Terry Bradt and John Harnett assisted the students and will complete the posting of the directional signage by mid- December
 - Length of the new trail is approximately 1 km and is an offshoot of the existing blue trail and will go to the Bass Creek wetlands and loop back
 - The name of the new trail is the *Jihae Kim Lee Family Conservation Trail* (the property was purchased from the Lee family)
 - Staff gave certificates of appreciation to the Norwood High School students
 - Staff also confirmed with Mr. Sherwin CVCA's desire to provide outdoor educational opportunities for the students and a place for their practical portion of their courses
 - Mr. Sherwin was excited at the prospect of using MCA as part of the curriculum for his forestry class and believe there may be other interested classes
- Funding from the OWF and donators has also allowed the CVCA to contract Joshua Griffin, a recent GIS graduate (and CVCA volunteer) to redesign the MCA Trail map with the new trail addition.
 - In addition, the map will be clearer to read, include more features and include a legend

- Staff continue to meet with volunteers to develop a “Friends of MCA”
At a recent meeting, next steps were discussed, including possible projects for 2017 (creek crossing, calendar, photo contest, refurbished donation box)

Risk Management Officer Data Management

- Through the agreement between Highlands East and the CVCA, an opportunity to improve the data management of the intake protection zones, information sharing and plans has surfaced through the efforts of Joshua
- Joshua will be using a cloud based system to allow key municipal staff access to a wide range of tools and information to assist with the administration of the SWP program and services.
- The following is a brief description of the project.
 - By the completion of this project the CVCA source water protection staff along with the regulations staff will have at its disposal an interactive map, a data entry system and a way to connect both through a “pin” being placed on the map. The information is then available to all staff at any given moment as long as there is an internet connection.
 - The first step will be to develop an interactive map based online (ArcGIS Online) that contains several features including the regulated are, well head protection area, parcels, and SOLRIS (Southern Ontario Land Resource Information System). This map along with the data can be accessed, searched, edited and updated primarily by source water protection staff in addition to regulations staff at the CVCA at any time whether on a site visit or at the office provided an internet connection is available.
 - The “cloud” will be utilized as a part of this project through the use of Google’s “forms” application. The staff will be able to enter any data that is received via hard copy or email by the public onto the application which once entered and submitted can be accessed by CVCA staff.
 - Connecting both the map and the form will be done through a colour coded object on the map called a “pin”. This will be used as an identifier to inform staff that they have an ongoing case with the property and it will contain direct links to the forms filled out on the “forms” application that can be accessed by simply clicking the link.
 - The development of each portion (Online map, forms database and “pin”) allows all staff to be able to access all information at any given time. The shift from individual PC’s to a cloud based computing system allows for

greater availability and communication and with this speedier resolution of issues and greater insight on items that may be overlooked.

- Finally, this system will give staff a tool to complete the following:
 1. quickly review parcels of property
 2. remove duplication of record keeping in the office
 3. track file progress
 4. keep all of the information in an easily accessed cloud data management system
 5. provide the ability to monitor program deliverables.

CVCA Regulations Data Management

- The template/concept provided by the RMO cloud based data management will provide the springboard for the implementation of a similar system for the CVCA regulation's program – Joshua aims to have this system in place ready for 2017.

The Gut CA

- An hunting incident/conflict was reported to the CVCA during the first week of the deer hunt
 - A mother and her children were confronted by a small group of hunters who aggressively escorted them from the gorge of The Gut to the entrance, claiming the family had no right to be on the property
 - The mother claims the hunters guns were used in a threatening manner
 - CVCA staff immediately contacted the hunting group at The Gut and were assured the incident did not involve any of their group
 - Staff and the group contact believe it may have been other hunters who were looking for an opportunity to take advantage of the easy access
 - The mother was distressed and sought medical help
 - She has also indicated she will be seeking to have the hunters charged

Miscellaneous

- MNRF has circulated the CA Act to various provincial ministries for their input and comments. Upon completion of this step, committees will be struck for final recommendations to MNRF and provincial approval for changes to the Act.
- Shaman Power has sold the hydro generating station. The lease will remain as it is, with the CVCA as the primary day to day operators, first on call responders and the revenue sharing arrangement will stay the same as well.
 - Staff will be meeting with the new owners to discuss the CVCA's operating costs and hopefully renegotiate current rates

- The previous owners will remain as consultants to the new owners for the foreseeable future
- Wollaston Township has requested myself to attend a council meeting in the new year to review CVCA operations, focusing primarily on water management
- Met with group of volunteers to discuss the possibility of establishing a Forest School for this regional area of Marmora, Madoc, Stirling
 - Marmora and Lake Councillor Mike Stevens and Vivian Collver from the M&L Environmental Advisory Committee headed the initial meeting of approximately 24 participants (municipal councilors, teachers, conservation authority staff, interested volunteers from the public sector)
 - Discussed resources, locations, concepts
 - Many ideas put forth – next meeting in January 2017
-