

**Full Authority**  
**16 June 2016**  
**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.

## **Water Management Update**

1. Since the spring flood, water levels and flows progressed to seasonal values, with some adjustments and fluctuations over the past two months.
  - Long range weather forecasts predict average summer temperatures and average to slightly below precipitation levels, which is not as favourable for maintaining lake levels as the previous summer. Predicted precipitation may be as a result of thunderstorm activity, which then creates situations in the watershed where parts of it may receive rainfall, when other sections do not. This "hit and miss" scenario may result in a challenging water management situation for the summer recreational period.
  - Since there could be unpredictable weather patterns and amounts of total precipitation for the summer, staff have determined the best course of action is to keep lakes throughout the watershed slightly above summer water levels to retain as much water as possible to attempt to keep water levels as close to summer values, especially for the latter half of the summer.
  - This strategy has been employed in the past and has proven effective. In combination with this tactic, staff have sealed (jacked) stop logs at dams throughout the watershed to minimize leakage.
  - The "downside" to this approach is if thunderstorm activity produces intense rainfall events with substantial volumes in a short period of time, lakes which react quickly to these conditions may result in a short period of high water levels until the effect of stop log removal has the desired effect to draw down the lake to an acceptable norm for the season.

2. A letter was received from Kathy Woeller, Manager Program Services MNRF indicating the CVCA was not successful in obtaining WECI funding for the projects submitted this year. Unfortunately, the projects were not ranked high enough by the WECI Committee, but they have been placed on a waiting list.
3. Recently, vandalous activity at the Marmora dam resulted in the overhead gantry removed from its track and pushed off of the concrete section of the dam onto the graveled portion. A local resident had seen a large group involved with the illegal activity and called the police, however, the arrival of the police was too late to stop what the vandals had started. No one was caught and held accountable.
4. The Provincial Flood Forecast and Warning Conference will be held this September. This conference is an excellent opportunity to share information, network, transfer knowledge, skills and experience between MNRF and conservation authority staff. The CVCA has participated most years and will be sending Neil McConkey, CVCA Water Technician to attend this year's conference.
5. Neil McConkey, as of this year, has now been employed by the CVCA for 25 years. In recognition of this achievement and outstanding service, I would like offer a gift and plaque to Neil at the next Board Meeting in September.

#### **Action Item**

As per the following motion, staff have contacted Quinte Conservation and have been informed by Terry Murphy, QCA General Manager he will be presenting the request to his Board at their next meeting and have an answer as soon as possible.

*FA Motion G 41/16*

*Moved By: Ron Gerow*

*Seconded By: Sandy Fraser*

*That staff contact QC to see if they are interested in updating the proposal and to get a quote for their expenses to complete the proposal.*

*Carried.*

#### **McGeachie Conservation Area**

- Rentals for the McGeachie cottage are on target for the upcoming summer.
- I have had two meetings with two individuals in the Steenburg Lake area regarding the creation of a "Friends of McGeachie" to assist with trail development, maintenance and raising funds to help ease the financial burden of owning and maintaining the McGeachie Conservation Area. Discussions are proceeding very well and a third meeting is scheduled for later this month.

- The two volunteers who are spearheading the initiative have also already donated a day of their time to clean up the existing trails.
- In addition, the CVCA has received a donation from the Steenburg Lake Community Association to assist with these efforts. Discussions with the SLCA remain positive and additional support seems to be on the horizon. Hopefully the SLCA membership will be interested in becoming members of the new Friends of McGeachie once it is officially up and running. There are many family links to the McGeachie cottage still around Steenburg Lake who have expressed an interest in activities on the property.
- As well, contact has been made with an individual who wishes to remain anonymous, but has indicated a strong support for the MCA. I am extremely hopeful he will join Friends of McGeachie and become an integral part of the new group.

### **Miscellaneous**

Two summer students were hired through the MNR Summer Experience Program to conduct the CVCA's benthic monitoring program. Sampling and identification will be completed by the end of next week.