

**Full Authority**  
**21 September 2017**  
**Agenda Item: 11**

## **Crowe Valley/Lower Trent Region CA Boundary Adjustment**

### **Background**

Shortly before the June 2017 Board Meeting, Glenda Rodgers, General Manager of the Lower Trent Conservation Authority contacted myself about a possible boundary expansion of the LTRCA watershed. The intent is to expand their watershed boundary to include all of the former Seymour Township (now part of the Municipality of Trent Hills) outside the jurisdiction of any conservation authority with the exception of the lands draining to the mouth of the Crowe River, where it enters Crowe Bay of the Trent River.

This action is a result of a void (or “hole” as it became known as) which was shaped by the creation of the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, the Crowe Valley CA in the 1950’s and finally the addition of the Lower Trent Region CA in the late 60’s. Please see the attached pdf. **(Map of Void)** The dark and white area together forms the void. The dark area is the part of the void the LTRCA wishes to expand its boundaries.

Trent Hills Council has confirmed they wish to move ahead with the boundary adjustment for the Lower Trent, as it would provide consistency to the regulation of lands throughout Trent Hills. The same option was posed to Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and after their Council’s deliberations, they decided not to proceed with the boundary expansion into HBM.

The boundary expansion did not have any impact on the CVCA and therefore I did not offer any objection to the LTRCA proposed changes early in the summer. In the meantime, the LTRCA proceeded with their proposal, contacting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to obtain the necessary approvals.

Mid-summer, I received an e-mail from Glenda indicating that Ministry mapping showed the CVCA boundary north east of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area weir. I immediately sent a scanned copy of the CVCA’s oldest version of the watershed boundary, which was from a Ministry of Natural Resources report from 1963. Obviously an error had been made and needed to be corrected.

For the LTRCA it is vital for their watershed boundary to butt up to the *correct* CVCA boundary, otherwise there will either be a gap in the hole they are trying to close or they would be owners of the Crowe Bridge weir and the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area, which they don’t want.

The 1963 map was digitized by LTRCA staff and combined with the current LTRCA boundary map and an Ontario Flow Assessment Tool boundary map. With some very

minor exceptions, these three boundaries all line up and it also indicates the 1963 techniques and knowledge are still very pertinent and relevant for this exercise. Please see the attached map (**CVCA Southern Boundary Sketch**).

Referring to the attached map:

- The **black line** is the original watershed boundary for Crowe Valley, as shown in their Conservation Report prepared in the 1960's.
- The **green line** is the watershed boundary for Lower Trent Conservation, which was formed in 1968 (after the Crowe). ***It is quite apparent that the intent when Lower Trent was formed was that it was to match up with the southern boundary of the Crowe.***
- The **red line** is a line generated by OFAT, which shows close proximity to the original boundary between the two CAs
- The **yellow line** is the current Crowe watershed boundary (LIO data).

Glenda and I both agreed the CVCA's 1963 watershed map proves the boundary has not changed and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry needs to make an adjustment to their mapping. It makes sense to revert the Crowe Valley watershed boundary back to where it was, with the outlet being at the confluence of the Crowe and Trent Rivers.

In order for the LTRCA to proceed with their boundary expansion, the only action CVCA needs to conduct is to confirm to MNRF the CVCA boundary will remain as it has always been delineated as per the Order-in-Council when the CVCA was established in 1958. This will result in an adjustment to their LIO (Land Information Ontario) layer for the CVCA.

## **Recommendation**

*That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority confirms to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry that the CVCA watershed boundary has remained as it was when first established in 1958 by the Order-in-Council which states "The Honourable Minister of Planning and Development therefore recommends that pursuant to Section 4 of the Conservation Authorities Act, a conservation authority, to be known as "The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority", be established with jurisdiction over the area lying within the watershed of the Crowe River;"*

*And further that specifically, the point of the outlet of the Crowe River be at the confluence of the Crowe and Trent Rivers as originally mapped.*