

**Full Authority  
22 February 2018  
Agenda Item: 11**

**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 have remained consistently above average for the month of January and February.
- Recent snowfall accumulation has resulted in average snowpack conditions for the Crowe Valley watershed.
- However, predicted above average daytime temperatures for the next two week period will result in a reduction of the snowpack or increase the water content, thereby storing water for release in the early spring season.
- Rainfall during this period of above average temperatures could also have a significant impact on the stop log adjustments, as more water will enter into the watershed system.
- Staff will make the necessary adjustments during this period to maintain lake levels at their winter settings.
- The CVCA has been invited as one of the Hastings County conservation authorities to participate in a meeting with the Hastings County Community Emergency Management Coordinators. This has become an annual invitation to discuss current watershed conditions and if possible give an estimate of what flooding conditions may be like for the upcoming spring freshet. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to review the conservation authorities' role and responsibilities during a flooding event, discuss past issues, ensure good communication of information between the stakeholders is entrenched and assist the CEMC as much as possible to help prepare the CEMC to cope with a flood event.

## **2. Budget Considerations**

- Chair Redden and myself have attended three municipal council meetings between the January and February Board meetings.
- The meetings have been a good exchange of information, direct questions and possible solutions to assist with reducing the levy for 2018. Chair Redden and myself are pleased with the results of the meetings and thank the member municipalities for their invitation and interest in the 2018 Budget approval process.
- A meeting has also been scheduled with The Stirling-Rawdon Finance and Personnel Committee in March.

## **3. WECI Submission**

- The WECI Grant Application was submitted by staff on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. Included in the submission are two safety projects and one repair.
- The two safety projects are to complete the installation of safety booms at Belmont and Allan Mills Dam.
- The minor repair is located at the Marmora Dam. Should the repair project be approved, the Ministry of Natural Resources will require additional funding support from the CVCA.

## **4. Miscellaneous**

- Recently, the CVCA has been invited to meet with Mike Bossio, Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington. Chair Redden and I will be attending the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.
- The CVCA recently participated in a Climate Change Survey conducted by Annette Morand, Community Adaptation Coordinator for the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR).
- OCCIAR will be collecting information from all 36 conservation authorities and forwarding the information to Conservation Ontario. The focus of the current work is to take the results of the survey and develop a narrative report about the state of climate change-related projects within CAs. This report will support the development of a CO (Conservation Ontario) Climate Change Strategy and help to negotiate additional provincial support towards identifying the roles and responsibilities of CAs in mitigation, adaptation and increasing resiliency to climate change.

- It is important for the CVCA to participate and identify issues and concerns even though climate change initiatives have not been undertaken by the CVCA at this time. It is through the development of a Climate Change Strategy that additional support and resources may be available and the CVCA should be a participant in mitigation and adaptation with a focus to increase resiliency in this watershed.
- The CVCA watershed will not be immune to climate change. The Authority, with provincial support will play a key role in climate change and the development of the CO Strategy is an important first step.
- I am pleased to advise you that the Gilmor's Leave for Appeal was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Canada.
- As a reminder, the Gilmor court case was launched against the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority after the Mining and Lands Commissioner upheld the NVCA decision to deny a permit.
- Despite this, building was commenced without a municipal building permit and Section 28 permit from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority.
- The case ended up in the Ontario Divisional Court and it overturned the Mining and Lands Commissioner's decision. The decision was appealed by the NVCA.
- The Ontario Court of Appeal reversed the Divisional Court decision. The Court of Appeal determined protection of property and safe access to and from flood prone properties will rest with Conservation Authorities and not become a responsibility of municipalities and the permit would remain denied.
- The Gilmors appealed this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.