

Full Authority
15 June 2017
Agenda Item: 12

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

- Spring freshet conditions have been extremely unusual in comparison to a normal spring pattern
- In most years, there will be one peak during a spring freshet. This spring has seen three distinct peaks, with the third peak (the largest) triggering a flood warning issued on May 8th, 2017. The warning was in place for six days.
- During the warning, the office remained opened to the public 24 hours a day to ensure the public, municipalities, emergency services and the media had access to up to date information. In addition, the longer shifts allowed staff an opportunity to remove more stop logs in one day.
- Rainfall in the first week of May totaled approximately 150mm (6") and the groundwater was already saturated from the two previous freshets. Total rainfall for May was approximately 8".
- The peak flow for this warning was 162 cubic metres per second (cms) recorded downstream of the Marmora dam. This peak virtually equaled the flood events in 2008 and 2009.
- With flows excessively high for the Victoria Day weekend, CVCA advised the Municipality of Marmora and Lake to close the boat launch just upstream of the Marmora dam.
- Active weather since the flood warning has been unstable with additional rainfall resulting in fluctuations in water levels and flows. Typically for this time of year, flows at Marmora would be in the 10 to 15cms range. However, flows have remained at 3 to 4 times higher.

- Without significant rainfall amounts forecasted in the next two week period, levels and flows will not fluctuate substantially and a normal pattern should begin to develop.

2. WECI Projects

- The CVCA has been recently notified the WECI projects (Allan Mills boom log, Belmont Lake boom log, Marmora Gate repairs/replacement and Allan Mills signage) as submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have been approved.
- Staff will be proceeding with the projects and are hopeful to have them completed during the fall when water levels are lower and the installation of the booms will be easier.

3. Monitoring Equipment

- The MNRF-Surface Water Monitoring Centre and Crowe Valley CA understand the importance of real time high quality climate and hydrometric monitoring data to support our collective mandates (e.g. flood forecasting, drought monitoring, research, watershed reporting and others). As a result, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has recently offered the CVCA (and other conservation authorities) throughout the province free monitoring equipment.
- Both the MNRF-SWMC and CVCA want to see climate and hydrometric information shared within the Ontario water resource management community for the purpose of serving the broadest possible public good.
- There are a variety of pieces of equipment to assist with the collection of real time data. The MNRF-SWMC is providing the following:
 1. Quantity: 1; Supplier: Hoskin; Model: Ott Pluvio 1500mm Precipitation Gauge complete with Satlink 3 GOES Transmitter and associated infrastructure
 2. Quantity: 1; Supplier: Hoskins Scientific; Model: GMX500 Compact Weather Station with cable
 3. Quantity: 1; Supplier: Campbell Scientific; Model: Air Temperature Probe
 4. Quantity: 1; Supplier: Campbell Scientific; Model: Water Temperature Probe and shield
 5. Quantity: 1; Supplier: GeoScientific; Model: Ultrasonic water and snow sampler depth sensor
 6. Quantity: 3; Supplier: Stevens; Model: Hydra Probe II Soil Sensor
 7. Quantity: 0; Supplier: FTS; Model: H1RS data logger with G6 telemetry

and SDI interface

8. Quantity: 1; Supplier: HES; Solar Power Setup

9. Quantity: 0; Supplier: Campbell Scientific Model: Gamma Ray Snow Water Equivalent Sensor complete with data logging capabilities, power and installation.

- Fortunately, MNRF is willing to install the equipment with only minimal assistance from the CVCA (we need to build a small base for the equipment) at the McGeachie Conservation Area. MNRF-SWMC staff will require a couple of days to install, test and ensure the equipment is functioning as intended. Therefore, the cottage is offered for their staff while they are on site. The installation dates are the 26, 27th and 28th of September.
- This is a unique opportunity for the CVCA to add additional monitoring capabilities and fill a gap in our data collection.

4. Conservation Authorities Act Review

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry review of the Conservation Authorities Act has taken a significant step forward. The Act has been read and passed for the first of three times in the Provincial legislature.
- Conservation Ontario has prepared a “Frequently Asked Questions” summary at this time and it has been included in your agenda package.

5. Source Water Protection Update

- Andrew McIntyre has been hired as a Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority employee. The CVCA and the LTRCA have entered into an agreement to share Andrew on a 60/40 basis for the purposes of performing SWP duties at both authorities.
- The agreement is in place until the end of March 2018 at which time both authorities will assess the arrangement and take into consideration the funding available at that time whether to proceed with a renewal of the agreement.
- Andrew will be completing SWP duties and tasks as assigned by Vicki Woolfrey.
- In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change will be conducting an audit of the Trent Conservation Coalition. MOECC has selected two of the five participating conservation authorities, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and the CVCA. The audit is tentatively scheduled for the end of August.

6. Conservation Areas Update

J.M. Longyear has contacted the CVCA and will be preceding to complete the logging of their property adjacent to The Gut Conservation Area.

As a token of their appreciation, the company is willing to make repairs to the access road.

In addition, they have offered to assess the poplar on CVCA property which could be harvested. The area in question is not large, nor is it close to the gorge or the areas which would be visited by the public.

7. Conservation Ontario Update

As the Board may remember, the Nottawasaga Region Conservation Authority has been embroiled in a legal issue for quite some time regarding a permit which was denied by the authority. An appeal was launched to their Board and the decision was upheld. The appellants then appealed to the Mining and Lands Commissioner. The decision was upheld by M&L and ultimately that decision was taken to the Divisional Court for a ruling.

At that court, the decision was overturned in favour of the appellants. The Nottawasaga then appealed the decision and MNRF and Conservation Ontario were granted intervenor status to assist with their position.

A recent decision has been made by the Ontario Court of Appeal to overturn the Divisional Court ruling.

The decision was crucial for all conservation authorities since the Divisional Court's interpretation about ingress and egress during a flood would have eliminated the ability of each conservation authority to address the access issue and protect the public.

Two memo briefs are included in the agenda package for your consideration. Conservation Ontario (CO) is working on a detailed fact sheet for distribution to the CAs.

Additionally, a report will be coming to the June CO council meeting that will identify additional recommendations related to the decision for consideration by council.

Should you wish to read the entire decision, please advise and a copy will be provided.

Service Delivery Review (SDR)

As reported at the last Board meeting, staff compiled an extensive list of questions for the regulations department and the Lower Trent Region Conservation (LTRC) has agreed to assist the CVCA with at least this department.

After receiving the list, the Lower Trent General Manager and myself reviewed the questions together. It was determined that four of the questions were not suitable for various reasons. The LTRC manager determined, due to work schedules, a vacation for the regulations department supervisor and the extra work load due to flooding issues, it would take approximately three to four weeks to complete the questionnaire and return it to the CVCA.

The questionnaire has been received by the CVCA and it has provided an excellent template for circulation to other comparators. Once the other two comparators return the questionnaire, then compilation of the results can begin.

In the meantime, work has progressed to develop the questionnaires for the remaining departments. The watershed management questionnaire is being finalized and will be circulated in the next few days.

The templates of these two departments will provide a good guide to assist with the remaining departments.

If the Board or the Executive Committee wishes to review the questions for these two departments, please advise and a meeting could be set up to review progress to date.