

**Full Authority
16 March
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

- Watershed conditions have been unusual for the months of January, February and March. During the first two months of the year, mild temperatures have resulted in a reduced snow pack in the southern portion of the watershed, however, significant accumulations of snow occurred in the northern half of the CVCA. The mild temperatures in the latter half of February coupled with two rainfall events had started the freshet in earnest.
- Water levels and flows have risen steadily in a relatively short space of time. Flood storage capacity created by the fall draw down has been used and lake levels are now exceeding their summer threshold. Flows on the Crowe River have doubled from the winter average (which was higher than normal).
- Fortunately, a peak was attained by the first weekend in March (102cms). However, current conditions indicate there is a strong possibility there will be one or more peaks (and possible flooding) this spring, due to the following:
 - The late February thaw coupled with two rainfall events has resulted in the first peak – there is now a significant volume of water in the Crowe River watershed which needs to be flushed through the system. Until this excess water recedes, it will maintain a higher base of flows and lake levels, which eliminates the flood storage capacity of the watershed
 - There is still a snow pack in the northern reaches of the watershed with a high water equivalent. This condition, coupled with mild temperatures and rainfall events which record 25mm of rain or more will have a significant impact on the watershed. Short and long term weather forecasts indicate a cyclical pattern which will result in a slow melt of snow in the watershed.

- There is still 6 to 8 weeks of spring ahead which is traditionally the “flood season”. Three or four days of steady rain with average or above average amounts of precipitation during this time could easily push lake levels and flows into flood conditions.
- Ground absorption rate has changed significantly during the mild winter months eliminating the dry conditions from 2016. However the return to seasonal norms results in a reduced ability to absorb additional spring rains and snowmelt which in turn increases runoff and adds to potential flooding.

2. Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Funding

- WECI projects were submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on time. In addition the WECI database was updated with the projects submitted to the MNRF.
- The WECI Committee has met in mid-February to score the projects from all conservation authorities and a list of approved projects will likely be available by late March or early April.

3. Miscellaneous

- The CVCA is currently being considered to participate in a pilot project with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change through the Ontario Partner Environmental Network Project. This pilot project will showcase the work conservation authorities (CAs) do and promote the value of CA monitoring data, while integrating it with information from the Province.
- CVCA staff will be attending a cap and trade information session/workshop at the end of March to determine if there is a possibility of future funding opportunities for the Authority
- CVCA staff will be meeting with the Ministry in the near future.
- Regulation applications and inquiries are beginning to increase at a steady rate.
- The CVCA has landed a contract to complete the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) for the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority. The contract is worth approximately \$3500.