

**Full Authority
19 January 2017
Agenda Item: 9**

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

- December 2016 experienced higher than normal precipitation and milder temperatures during the last week of December, resulting in higher than normal levels and flows.
- Flows at Marmora Dam have recently peaked at 48.4cms, which has exceeded the average 2016 fall flows by approximately 30 to 35 cms.
- Increased dam operations (removal of stop logs) have resulted from the excess water in the system and will be replaced as necessary when levels have receded closer to engineered winter levels
- A Watershed Conditions Statement has been issued on January 6, 2017 and will be updated as required. The statement informs residents of higher than normal flows and lake levels for the winter season and warning everyone (especially children) to stay away from locations where high flows are particularly dangerous. Milder temperatures and rain have also eroded ice, especially at locations where flows have increased velocity. Hypothermia is also a serious concern should anyone fall into water at this time.
- Temperature and precipitation (in the form of rain) fluctuations recently will extend this period of high water levels and flows, but once a stable weather pattern emerges, staff anticipate a return to winter settings in approximately one to two weeks.
- The CVCA continues to maintain its Level One Low Water Status

2. McGeachie Conservation Area

- The CVCA has received a generous donation of approximately \$3,500 from a resident in the watershed to help with the development of the McGeachie Conservation Area
- Staff are in the midst of assessing future projects for MCA, applying for grants and developing Friends of McGeachie (staff are hopeful Wei Chen from CBC's Ontario Morning Radio show may become a supporter)

3. Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Funding

- Should the CVCA move forward with a 2017 budget to include WECI projects, the applications for 2017 will be required to be submitted by February 6, 2017
- Staff recommend the 2016 projects be resubmitted along with a project for the reinstallation of the boom logs at Belmont dam.

4. Miscellaneous

- The Endeavour Centre, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, has contacted the CVCA regarding the possibility of building an additional “cottage” for the Authority
- The Zero House (zero carbon footprint, zero toxins in the building, zero utility bills, zero wastewater output and zero fossil fuel use) will be designed by the Endeavour Centre in conjunction with Ryerson University and the house will be exhibited this fall at the Design Exchange Museum’s EDIT (Expo for Design, Innovation and Technology) waterfront festival
- The fully modular Zero House will be moved from the expo grounds and installed on a new site by the Endeavour Centre’s faculty and student construction team.
- The house will be fully functional with full kitchen and bathroom and able to operate in an off grid or grid tied scenario.
- The Endeavour Centre is a non-profit organization which typically builds a custom building every year for the local community and is willing to donate its time and efforts this year for the benefit of the CVCA
- The Zero House would be an excellent opportunity for the public to rent and expose them to a building which is environmentally friendly, energy efficient and possibly an insight to what future homes could be like in the not too distant future
- Since this would be a unique experience, staff firmly believe this kind of cottage rental could command a premium rate
- However, the donation is not entirely free. The labour to construct the home and the design work is free, ***but not the materials***.
- Chris Magwood, the Executive Director of the Endeavour Centre has estimated the material costs would be approximately \$115,000.
- Therefore, in order to take advantage of this opportunity, significant fundraising would be required
- Should the Board wish to support this endeavour and has any suggestions to move forward, staff are more than willing to take the lead for the project