

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

- Considering recent rainfall amounts, fall water level conditions are reasonably consistent for this time of year. Approximately one half of the lakes in the watershed have reached the targeted winter level, while the remaining lakes are 4" to 6" above winter levels.
- Current and forecasted weather conditions pose no significant problem to attain these levels before the arrival of winter.

2. McGeachie Conservation Area

- Katie Clow, DVM, PhD candidate at the Ontario Veterinary College conducted a black legged tick study at the McGeachie Conservation Area this summer
- A number of conservation areas in Ontario were chosen for this field research since the expansion of the tick population across Ontario has increased the spread of Lyme disease
- 49 sites in total were tested
- The tick drag at MCA captured 0 black legged ticks

3. Small Game Hunting Request – Callaghan's Rapids

- Mike Fitzgerald has recently requested permission to conduct a rabbit drive at Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area.
- The hunting group would consist of 3 or 4 hunters starting from the south end of CRCA near the rapids and proceed north to the railway tracks. Once this drive is completed, a reversal of the drive would take place.
- Mr. Fitzgerald claims there is a large healthy population of cotton tails and snowshoe hares observed during summer visits to CRCA, especially on the east side of the Crowe River near the caves.
- If permission is granted, a winter hunt allows easier access to all parts of CRCA.

- The cold weather also kills off sick hares with Tularemia, making the hunt more desirable during the winter months.
- Mr. Fitzgerald's group would hunt with 12 gauge shotguns and small caliber .22 rifles.
- The hunters would use snowshoes to traverse the area.
- Will follow MNR hunting rules, procedures and restrictions.
- Willing to lease property at a fair market price/acre.

Recommendation:

- 1) CVCA lease property for ½ the rate for the deer hunt
- 2) The group post signage indicating the hunt is in process and the timing of the hunt
- 3) The group advise local residents by letter of the hunt
- 4) Sign the same agreement as the deer hunting groups with the necessary adjustments for the small game
- 5) The group must follow all current practices for the deer hunt – ie., provide names of hunter, sign a waiver, etc.
- 6) Hunt be limited for a 2 week period (to be negotiated when it would occur).

4. Small Game Hunting Request – Agreement Forest

- Coincidentally, have received request from Edgar Storms and the hunt group which leases the Agreement Forest from the CVCA to also formally extend the current agreement for hunting to include small game hunting.
- The Agreement Forest is landlocked with no public access
- Well supervised by current hunting group.
- Has been leased for approximately 15 years and therefore is well known locally as the area controlled and hunted by this particular group.

Recommendation:

- 1) Extend lease agreement to cover small game hunting as per the above conditions in item 3.

5. Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECD) Funding

- Met with Mr. Bill Grandy, P.Eng., Practice Lead Water Resources from EXP Services on 4 Nov 2015 to advance Belmont Dam Safety Assessment Update and Allan's Mills formal visual engineering inspection and Public Safety Assessment.
- Site visits were conducted at each structure and included a concrete assessment, overall condition, safety concerns, signage, measurements, visual inspection of all railings, overhead gantry, winches, accessory structures, etc.

- In addition, engineering, construction details and drawings were provided for Mr. Grandy for the review of Allan's Mills dam/weir. No additional information other than the site visit for Belmont dam was required since EXP has previously been provided with the technical details of Belmont Dam.
- Mr. Grandy indicated the reports will be forthcoming by Dec 31st, 2015. This will fulfill the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry requirements well in advance of the March 2016 deadline.

6. Insurance Quote

- The Conservation Ontario Insurance Committee will be formalizing September preliminary discussions regarding liability coverage for water control structures by the end of November.
- This information will be forwarded to Marsh Insurance Canada. This will give Marsh sufficient time to calculate new insurance rates for conservation authority insurance coverage for this particular liability.
- Informed by Committee Chair Denyse Landry the Committee has agreed to the following criteria to establish an insurance rate for downstream liability from water control structures:
- To be based on water control structures dam safety rating which is established primarily by the number of residents and property which could be affected in a dam break or flooding scenario, not on the upstream acre storage capacity of the water control structures.
- This criteria, once accepted should help to reduce the CVCA's overall insurance premium.
- This review will have an impact on all CAs across the province and will be more equitable since urban considerations have a significant impact on the dam ratings
- This change in establishing the correct criteria was only considered with the request coming from the CVCA to change the current calculations.
- CVCA staff have also received notification from Jardine Lloyd Thompson Canada that the quote will be available closer to the renewal time of our current insurance for the CVCA.

7. Marsh Insurance Report

- Met with Marsh on 6 Oct 2015 and followed up with phone interview to review the insurance report to the CVCA
- The general intent of the visit was to:
- Visit a cross section of typical properties operated by the CVCA (e.g. managed and unmanaged)
- To obtain a general understanding of typical exposures and risk mitigation initiatives.

- To review the types of activities that the authority allows/provides on properties (e.g. hunting, hiking, snow shoeing).
- To identify any obvious liability hazards (e.g. slip, trip and fall hazards, signage, attractive allurements).
- To review documentation (e.g. recorded inspections, incident reporting).
- And to discuss opportunities for improvement.
- The suggested opportunities received in the recently received report result from observations and discussions from the day of the visit and are not intended to be comprehensive in nature, nor are they intended to address all of the CVCA's operational risk exposures. Marsh is working with the Conservation Ontario Insurance Committee on broader risk management initiatives to help all CAs streamline and more effectively manage risk. The intent is to ensure risk is managed in a consistent manner across the province.
- Where risk management best practices are in place, Marsh will help CAs share policies, procedures and strategies to help increase overall risk management capabilities.
- Marsh provided a list and staff are currently reviewing it with the intent to implement the recommendations as soon as possible.

8. Land Donation – Ross Totten

- Met with Bob Ireland, Wollaston CVCA Board Member for a site visit to explore possibility of accepting land donation from Ross Totten.
- Subject property located at Lot 7, Concession 22, Wollaston Township on the South Road.
- Majority of property (estimated 80 to 90%) is wetland, remainder is steeply sloped woodland.
- Unable to use or develop for any conservation authority purposes except for the preservation of the property and its features, not even trail development – 1) slope is too steep and trails would be too short before encounter wetland feature and 2) in staff's opinion, the wetland feature is not diverse enough to be a significant attraction for public enjoyment or educational purposes

Recommendation:

Letter be sent to Mr. Totten thanking him for his generous offer, but CVCA not in a position to accept at this time and must decline offer.