

**Full Authority
21 April 2016
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. 2016 Flood Update

Pre Flood Conditions

- Mild start to winter in December and early January – precipitation received during this period fell as rain – saturated ground conditions to start
- Below average to average snowfall during January/February/March
- Mild spring temperatures to start in late winter/early spring filled watershed waterbodies earlier than normal and melt contributed to ground saturation conditions
- Received approximately 113 mm rainfall in northern portion of watershed in a 10 day span (with almost half in a 24 hour rain event just prior to the issuance of the Flood Warning) – resulting in a significant volume of water which had to move through the entire water system and causing flooding conditions

CVCA Messaging

- Four separate messages have been issued since the last Board meeting on the 3rd of March
- One Water Safety Statement was issued on the 15th of March 2016 describing conditions at that time – increased flows, hazardous conditions such as slippery banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous especially for children – also stated flooding was not expected at that time
- One Flood Outlook was issued on the 31st of March – describing anticipated conditions based on forecasted rainfall of 50mm – northern portion of the watershed will likely be hardest hit – flooding is a significant concern
- One Flood Watch was issued on the 1st of April – potential for flooding has increased significantly – entire watershed saturated and received forecasted rainfall amounts – immediate impact on levels and flows – warn municipalities of road damage/washouts due to beaver dam failures
 - contacted municipalities directly to ensure prepared for flooding conditions.

- Flood Warning issued 2nd of April – Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses – levels and flows increased substantially – identified key areas susceptible to serious flooding conditions
 - Electronic messaging and phone calls made to municipal Flood/Emergency coordinators since warning was issued on Saturday
 - “tested” flood plan and contact list – a few minor issues (incorrect phone numbers, difficulty contacting emergency co-ordinators, etc.) were encountered, but eventually all municipalities had Flood Warning information by Saturday afternoon

Communications

- Good communication and sharing of information between CVCA and municipalities throughout the watershed
- Increased level of awareness and information of flood event by public through many channels of communication – phone, e-mails, internet, facebook, twitter, radio
- CHEX TV coverage was excellent
- Staff able to create video coverage of flood event and distribute it through social media – significant positive feedback has already begun to “flow” to the CVCA
- Participated in Trent-Severn Conference Calls during flood event and continue to do so during Flood Watch
- Did receive some negative comments about the flood and how CVCA managed the spring runoff
 - Many of the negative comments were based on lack of information or understanding of how the watershed functions in a flood and our role to mitigate the effects
 - ie. “didn’t remove logs out of dams”, “don’t prepare in advance for the flood (reduce lake levels in winter), “ don’t lower lakes enough in winter”, “flooding more often because of hydro plant in Marmora”, “flooding our lake to prevent flooding on another”, “never seen the water this high”, “why flooding again this year after just had significant flood in 2014”
 - Fortunately after the initial comment by the complainant, an explanation of the situation was enough to satisfy their concerns and issues brought forward
 - However, vast majority of comments regarding CVCA service to the public – greatly appreciated, very positive – “great service to the community – comforting to know information available round the clock”
 - Considering brief synopsis to post on website

Other Concerns

- Algonquin Power advised east wing wall at intake for their penstock may be overtopped with flood waters – expected Cordova Lake to exceed 2014 water levels
 - Algonquin proceeded to build a temporary coffer dam to ensure this did not occur, since this possible situation could potentially cause extreme damage to their penstock and the plant itself
 - Signage was posted warning public of hazard
 - Did receive call from cottager wishing to cross Cordova Dam to access their cottage during the flood event
 - Cottager advised not to do so since west wing wall was overtopped with water and could easily cause a person to lose their footing and possibly be swept downstream
 - MNRF Peterborough District office advised of hazardous situation
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- Damage from flooding in the watershed is estimated to be approximately \$250,000 (municipal and landowners)
 - Flood Warning Issued 2 April – Downgraded to Flood Watch 11 April – 9 Day Event
 - Further Statements will be issued as conditions warrant

| 2016 Flood Event | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gauge Site | 2016 Peak | 2014 Peak | 1:100 Year Flood | Regulated Summer Level |
| Marmora Flow | 165.1 cm/s | 210.0 cm/s | n/a | n/a |
| Beaver Creek Flow | 68.6 cm/s | 72.0 cm/s | n/a | n/a |
| Glen Alda Flow | 49.3 cm/s | 47.1 cm/s | n/a | n/a |
| Paudash Lake | 342.587m | 342.431m | 342.80m | 342.31m |
| Belmont Lake | 187.839m | 188.038m | 188.80m | 187.09m |
| Crowe Lake | 182.845m | 183.022m | 183.88m | 182.42m |
| St. Ola Lake | 313.900m | 313. | 313.93m | 313.57m |
| Chandos Lake | 313.418m | 313.322m | n/a | n/a |
| Cordova Lake | 217.211m | 217.152m | 217.58m | 215.50m |
| Kasshabog Lake | 262.385m | 262.364m | 262.70m | 262.16m |
| Round Lake | 300.354m | 300.380m | 300.30m | 200.10m |
| Wollaston Lake | 310.907m | 310.996m | 311.55m | 310.24m |

Staff

- Will debrief and review Flood Warning period with staff to determine what was done well and where improvements could be made to better serve our member municipalities and the public – Board comments or suggestions are welcome
- I would like to thank staff for their dedication and hard work during the flood – staff have also had their personal lives disrupted and a thank you to their families for understanding the commitment staff made at this time to perform their duties
- Thanks in advance as well to Neil and Wray for timely stop log adjustments which are being done after the flood event has subsided

2. Queen's Park Day

- CVCA staff participated in the Queen's Park Day Luncheon for all 36 conservation authorities on March 11th, 2016
- Excellent opportunity to meet and discuss conservation authority programs, successes and challenges
- Turnout was high with over 75 conservation authority staff and Board members attending to meet with MPP's, Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- CVCA staff were able to engage in discussions with MPP Lou Rinaldi, meet briefly with Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Jeff Leal and Eleanor McMahon, Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Bill Mauro
- An engaged Eleanor McMahon, spoke liberally regarding the CVCA's current budgetary concerns, MNRF's role in the CA Act Review and strongly suggested and would support mediation as an opportunity to discuss outstanding issues – however, in the brief discussion, it was not clear what the level of support would entail
- Based on this discussion with Eleanor, a letter was written to Havelock-Belmont-Methuen's Mayor, Ron Gerow and is included in the agenda package for the Board's review and consideration
- In response, a letter has also been received from HBM and is included for the Board members

3. CVCA Budget Voting Process

An explanation of the budget voting process has been included for the Board to review as a supporting document. The intention is to help assist with the understanding of the presentation given to the Board by Mr. David Demille, the CVCA's solicitor at the last meeting.

4. Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Funding

- CVCA 2016 WECI Projects have not been funded – a formal letter is anticipated from the MNRF and the WECI committee in the not too distant future to confirm a recent e-mail to that effect
- CVCA projects did not rank high enough compared to other project submissions to be included in this year's approved list

5. Electronic Donations at CVCA Conservation Areas

- Staff were requested by the Board to investigate the financial costs to initiate an electronic payment system for the conservation areas in the CVCA watershed
- After comparing three companies to provide the electronic payment by phone, staff have determined the lowest cost, best support and service is MacKay Pay
- Initial setup costs for this service is \$480 (primarily for signage provided by MacKay Pay)
- Transaction and Credit Card Processing fees would remain the same regardless of the amount donated
- Staff considered a parking fee as part of this system, however, the CVCA has never charged for parking at three of its four areas
- The parking fee option could always be added at a later time if the Board deemed it necessary
- Donations received from the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area would require an agreement with Trent Hills on sharing the donations

| Donator Expenses – Example | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Donation | 5.00 |
| Transaction Fees | .25 |
| Credit Card Processing Fee | <u>.40</u> |
| Net Gain for CVCA | 4.35 |

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend establishing an electronic donation system through MacKay Pay to entice conservation users to donate to the CVCA to help offset expenses and that a tax receipt will be provided to those who donate at the \$20 level or higher.

Board Decision