



General Manager Report

Prepared For: Board of Directors

15 January 2026

Prepared by: Janette Loveys Smith, General Manager

Agenda Item #15

Recommendation

THAT the “General Manager Report” be received for information.

Watershed Conditions

- Conditions have improved across the entire watershed and are now considered to be normal for this time of year.
- Flows will increase during January as more dam operations will be performed.
- Snow surveys continue on the 1st and 15th of the month.
- CVCA moved to a Normal Low Water level on January 7.

Dam Operations

- Staff continue to perform the necessary adjustments over the winter to ensure water levels are seasonally normal in preparation.
- Dam operations have been performed on all dams. 25 operations were undertaken in December.
- Reviewed the following:
 - Contract with the Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Contract with Orillia Hydro

Water Levels

- Fall drawdown on most of the CVCA’s lakes began October 15 and ended November 15 depending on the weather. This past fall most lakes were at, or below, their winter regulated level at the end of November.
- Without performing any dam operations, as conditions improved, water levels started to rise in December. Most lakes are currently 4 to 6 inches above winter levels. Operations will continue this winter so the lakes are at their winter levels before the spring freshet.

Conservation Area Lands

- Staff monitor the lands and there is nothing to report at this time.
- Continue to remove dead & hazardous trees.

Administration

Over the past few weeks, a number of key items have been undertaken including time with CVCA staff, better understanding the internal processes and review of a number of documents.

- Engagement and relationship building with staff
- Review of CVCA policies and internal procedures
- Flood forecasting procedures and operations
- The Gut Conservation Area and BOFI Hunt Club Agreement - review and follow Up
- Draft 2026 operation, capital and apportionment budget
- 2025 financial position of the Authority
- 2024 Financial Statement
- Administration Bylaw 2018-01
- Employment policies and practices
- Job descriptions
- Health & Safety files
- Watershed Planning & Regulation Policy Manual
- Contacted legal firms to review the Authority's ongoing legal matters
- Participated in dam operations with staff
- Two watershed tours
- Discussion and met IT consultant
- Meeting with Chair McLellan – Tuesday, December 16

In addition, all the staff have been engaged and asked for 2026 suggestions that we, as a team, can work on.

Lastly, in the past few weeks, various property owners, contractors and developers' who wish to discuss matters. This is viewed as an opportunity.

Managed Forest Lands

- Reviewing the Management Forest Lands Agreement.
- Will report back at the February board meeting.

Conservation Ontario

- Conservation Ontario held several GM/CAO meetings in November and December with respect to the ERO posting for regional conservation authorities which closed on December 22, 2025.
- Conservation Ontario Council meetings were held on December 8 and 11, 2025.