

**Full Authority**  
**15 June 2023**  
**Agenda Item: 12**

**General Manager's Report**

**Background**

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.

**Watershed Management**

*Current Watershed Conditions*

- All stop logs in the watershed dams have been replaced as water levels and flows have stabilized. The majority of the dams have been jacked to reduce the amount of leakage.
- Lake levels are currently at or slightly above the summer recreational settings. However, recent lack of precipitation has resulted in a slight downward trend of the levels.

*Anticipated Conditions*

- Predicted precipitation for the next two weeks is minimal. As a result, staff are expecting lake levels and flows to marginally decrease heading into the prime recreational summer season.
- Typically, staff prefer to have lake levels approximately 4 inches higher to have a buffer for the hottest part of the summer. In the event a dry period materializes for an extended period of time there is the possibility drought conditions could become entrenched in the watershed. Should this occur early in July, a severe drought may become a reality for much of the summer. The Province has included drought conditions in the mandate of conservation authorities. As a result, should drought issues develop in the watershed, as a monitoring agency, the CVCA Board becomes the Low Water Response Team on behalf of the Province to deal with local conditions. Please review attached Low Water Response Team Appendix A.

- Marmora Dam safety booms require repairs. Two booms are missing and therefore need to be replaced and reconnected.
- A quote from O.D.S. Marine should be available by the June meeting date and a verbal update will be provided.
- The Belmont Dam safety boom will need to be installed. Quinte Conservation Authority performs this task for the CVCA, as they have the equipment to do the work. A fee is charged by Quinte to do the installation and will be contacted to have it completed before the end of June.

#### *Water Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Status*

- CVCA has received notification the WECI project as submitted has been approved for the structural improvements to ensure compliance with the Building code and staff safety.

#### *Dam Operations – General*

- No further update at this time.

### **Conservation Areas Update**

#### *Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area*

- After the approval to release funding for projects this year, the lead CVCA volunteer has continued efforts to blockade illegal ATV activity at Callaghan's. The number of breaches are dwindling and when they do occur, volunteer efforts are quickly mobilized to close off the access point through the construction of physical barriers in addition to the work completed last year.
- The CVCA and the volunteer will reach out to the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance (EOTA) for additional support and keep EOTA apprised of the work being completed along the rail bed. This is vital to keep these lines of communication open since the access points are also now becoming hazards for trail users. The rail bed is being eroded and could easily cause an accident causing injuries or even a fatality. (Please see attached photos of barriers and completed parking lot for vehicles along the EOTA trail)

### *McGeachie Conservation Area*

- Two trails have now been open for public use since the end of May.
- Financial assistance from Hastings County to allow hiring a logger is still currently on the table, however, the CVCA is still responsible to match the funding opportunity.
- The McGeachie cottage rentals are getting off to a good start with the first rental occurring on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. Currently, two weeks are still available to rent this summer.

### *Crowe Bridge Conservation Area*

- No further update at this time.

### *The Gut Conservation Area*

- No further update at this time.

### **Special Projects**

- The CVCA benthic monitoring program has been underway since the beginning of May with two students sampling 10 sites throughout the watershed. This is a vital program to maintain as the samples of the invertebrates collected will determine the health of the water in the CVCA watershed.
- The students will be finished sampling soon and will finish up their time at the CVCA by compiling a procedure manual, identifying permanent sites for sampling and making sure the program is ready for the 2024 season.

### **Board Discussion**

**TP**