

Full Authority
16 January 2025
Agenda Item: 14

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

- Mild temperatures in the last week of December 2024 plus significant rainfall received during this time period has resulted in lake levels and flows rising to summer averages. This means lake levels are approximately 30 cms (12") higher than the winter level.
- CVCA staff have conducted numerous stoplog adjustments at various dam locations throughout the watershed to pass the excess water and bring the lakes down to the normal winter levels for this time of year. The readjustment of the lake levels will take approximately another week to 10 days before winter stoplog settings have been attained.
- The higher water levels have resulted in the Marmora Hydro plant operating at full capacity.

Anticipated Conditions

- Staff expect water levels to reach winter elevations by the end of January provided the cold temperatures remain and there is no January thaw to contend with in the watershed.
- In general, snowfall accumulation for the northern portion of the watershed based on the CVCA's snow survey indicates an average depth of 11.08 cm (4.3") with an average snow water equivalent of 19.56 mm (.75")
- The southern sites show an average depth of 5 cm (1.96") with an average snow water equivalent of 9.4 mm (.37")
- In comparison, last year at this time, there was slightly over 37 cm (14.56") snow in the north and 28.2 cm (11.10") in the south.

Dam Operations – General

- Staff will continue making any necessary adjustments over the winter to ensure water levels are seasonally normal in preparation for the spring runoff.

Conservation Areas Update

No updates at this time.

Regulations and Planning

- Permits and planning items have slowed considerably since the middle of December.
- Staff are taking this opportunity to ensure permit application work is caught up to be ready for the upcoming building season.
- In addition, staff are planning a minimum of two workshop sessions for municipal building officials and planning staff to learn about the CVCA's Regulation and Planning program.

- The CVCA has just received notification from the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding "a new regulation prescribing the circumstances under which the Minister of Natural Resources ("Minister") may make permitting decisions in the place of a conservation authority or review a conservation authority's permitting decision."
- The correspondence (via email) states further "New provisions in the Conservation Authorities Act came into effect on April 1, 2024, that included powers for the Minister to 1) issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from issuing a permit and to take over the permitting process in the place of a conservation authority ("Minister's permit"), and 2) review a conservation authority permit decision at the request of the applicant ("Minister's review"). It is important to note that when making a permitting decision using one of these tools, the Minister is required to satisfy the same legislative criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by conservation authorities.

- The new regulation sets out the circumstances under which the Minister may use these powers as circumstances where the proposed development activity or other activity, in the opinion of the Minister, pertains to or supports a matter of provincial interest described in the regulation. Additionally, it includes a transparent process for individuals or businesses to request the use of these

powers and sets out the information that must be submitted as part of such a request. This regulation came into effect on January 1, 2025.”

Administration

General

CVCA will be engaging with Orillia Power to discuss the current agreement to operate the Marmora Hydro Plant and the on call system. In addition, staff training will be reviewed.

Staff Recommendation

That the CVCA Board receive the General Manager’s report as presented.

Board Discussion

TP