

**Full Authority**  
**18 January 2024**  
**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*

- Water levels and flows have been higher than normal during late November and December due to an unusually warm end to the year. This has impacted the drawdown for some of the controlled lakes, resulting in a slower downward trend to reach the winter level targets.
- Staff had anticipated the remaining high lake levels reaching winter levels by the end of the second week in January and were well on the way until the recent storm which contributed rain and higher temperatures for the southern portion of the watershed.
- Once a return to normal winter weather patterns and temperatures occur, all lake levels will be at the winter targets.
- Regarding operations at the Orillia Power hydro plant located at the Marmora dam, the higher flows have resulted in continued hydro production. This will certainly contribute to the revenue stream for Orillia Power and the resulting revenue sharing agreement between Orillia and the CVCA.

*Anticipated Conditions*

- Staff anticipate a return to normal water conditions early in the winter as the polar vortex slides southward and the effects from El Nino are virtually eliminated.
- However, should the El Nino impact resurface, staff anticipate temperatures and precipitation to be above average, which result in additional water inputs in the watershed. This could mean higher flows and levels in advance of the spring freshet.

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

- Due to slow progress to manufacture the walkway, there is a possibility the work may have to be cancelled for this fiscal Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) period. Should this be the case, then the CVCA will reapply for the same project for the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- A decision will be made after consultation with the MNR WECI Committee Chair to determine what flexibility there is with funding commitments, allocations and if work can be completed beyond the end of the current fiscal year.

### *Dam Operations – General*

- A two year agreement has been recently signed with the MNR district office for operational work to be conducted by the CVCA on behalf of Ministry staff.
- In the past, two one year agreements were signed with the two local district offices. This has been the arrangement for 30+ years and provided additional revenue for the CVCA to operate the Ministry's dams.
- However, with the recent changes combining the two district offices and to reduce the administrative work to prepare the agreements every year, the Ministry preferred to move to one 2 year agreement.
- As in the past number of years, staff requested a COLA increase to be included in the agreement.

### **Conservation Areas Update**

#### *McGeachie Conservation Area*

- I have met with Robert Hunter, the Algonquin Negotiation Representative of the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin First Nation in November and Dave Naulls (assistant to R. Hunter). The meeting was very positive and establishing a good foundation for understanding how we can support each other moving forward to meet future objectives.
- Future meetings will be planned for this year accordingly.
- A long term cottage rental (1 month) has been signed for January, which follows on the heels of a one month rental in December 2023.

*Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area*

- Please see Agenda Item #15.

*Crowe Bridge Conservation Area*

- The installation of the Axiom Telemetry Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network station has been completed. The CVCA will now be able to collect data remotely and forward it to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

**Regulations and Planning**

- Regulations staff are planning to hold “lunch and learn” session(s) for municipal staff again this year.
- Staff have begun in earnest a revision of the CVCA Regulations and Planning Policy. The focus will be primarily on updating/changing a few select policies (ie boathouses, docks etc.) and will be brought to the Board for approval in all likelihood at the April meeting.

**Administration**

*General*

- The CVCA's cleaner has retired after 20+ years service. A new cleaner has been contracted to clean the office and may agree to clean the MCA cottage.
- The server has been replaced and is up and running. The server's capacity has been increased at the same time and should provide good service for a number of years.
- As the Board is aware, staff will be undertaking the additional duties of preparing the necessary plans in order to be compliant with legislative changes. This will be an onerous task considering the number of plans to be completed.

***Staff Recommendation***

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

**Board Discussion**

**TP**