

**Full Authority**  
**20 June 2024**  
**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*

- Precipitation levels have been lower than normal for the past few weeks.
- However, current water levels and flows are within the normal summer recreational levels. A number of adjustments and jacking of stop logs is proceeding when and where required.
- This adjustment pattern of stop logs throughout the watershed this spring is to be expected after the spring freshet with low precipitation amounts triggering this extra activity.
  - For example, below average precipitation will require the replacement of stop logs usually in a shorter time period.
  - It may also lead to the necessity to have the stop logs jacked to seal the dams earlier than normal to ensure water is retained for the summer recreational season.
  - However, should a spring storm occur after the dams have been sealed, then a number of stop logs will likely have to be removed to accommodate the precipitation. This will then lead to eventually replacing them and re-jacking the bays.

*Anticipated Conditions*

- Predicted precipitation for the summer recreational season is normal to slightly below normal. This possibility in combination with above average temperatures may result in drought like conditions prevailing at various time for the next few months. Should drought conditions occur, this may significantly impact summer water levels, resulting in lower than normal readings.

- *Drought conditions will necessitate the re-forming of the **Low Water Response Team**, which is comprised of the CVCA Board and various other local and provincial partners as per the Conservation Authorities Act and the CVCA's duties and responsibilities.*
- There is also the possibility for an increase in storm events (due to more energy in the atmosphere – hot and humid conditions) which could result in significant amounts of rainfall in a short period of time, causing more stop log adjustments when none would normally be conducted.

#### *Dam Operations – General*

- No further update at this time.

#### **Conservation Areas Update**

##### *McGeachie Conservation Area*

- The Hastings Destination Trails Committee in conjunction with the CVCA will have a reopening of the McGeachie trails since the cleanup of the area has been completed late last fall. The reopening will include two mounted units in full regalia from the Ontario Mounted Special Service Unit (Ambassador Patrol) and a “forage workshop/tour” of edibles, herbs and plants used for medicinal purposes.
- The event will take place on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June at 9:30 a.m. for the Opening Celebration and the Foraging Tour starting at 10:00 a.m.
- The event is free, however we are asking for a non-perishable food donation for North Hastings Community Cupboard.

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

- Five local residents met recently to discuss the formation and incorporation of a “Friends of Callaghan's” group to take on the responsibilities of improving and maintaining the area. In addition, fundraising was discussed with the assistance of the CVCA Foundation.
- It is the goal of this group to complete the administrative work by the end of the year and put in place a working plan for 2025 activities for Callaghan's.
- As well, there have been residents who have responded to the advertisement looking for additional Board members/supporters of Callaghan's.

## **Regulations and Planning**

- The CVCA Regulations staff hosted a “lunch and learn” session for the CVCA Board Members on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Six members attended with all three new members in attendance.
- The session began with an informal discussion in the Board room and then moved to an outdoor location for a hands on demonstration of a “potential” development partially located in the floodplain.
- Further discussion ensued focussing on the hearing process, what options are available for the Board regarding decisions and possible outcomes.
- As always, if any Board Members have any additional questions or would like further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

## **Administration**

### *General*

- The CVCA has contacted the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority (LTRCA) requesting GIS and technical assistance to allow mapping to be placed on our website. LTRCA staff will be at the CVCA office in mid-June and hopefully we will be able to have mapping for public use soon after the initial visit.

### *Floodplain Hazard Identification Mapping Project (FHIMP)*

- Although there are still outstanding issues to be resolved, progress has been made on the FHIMP project and staff are confident the mapping from the project will be completed and ready for use in the fall. Staff will make every effort to have examples of the mapping for review and discussion at the 19<sup>th</sup> of September Board meeting.

### *Source Water Protection Update*

- The Trent Conservation Coalition General Managers have recently received information that funding to cover administrative expenses for the program may be reduced and phased into the TCC budget over a three year span.
- Discussions are ongoing and the Board will be updated at the September meeting.
- The possibility does exist the funding reduction may result in changes to the CVCA levy to cover any shortfall. Fortunately, if the reduction does proceed the impact in the first year will be less than the next two years.
- Nonetheless, this potential change is nothing less than additional downloading from the Province for a program that has always had 100% funding from the Province.

***Staff Recommendation***

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

**Board Discussion**

**TP**