

Full Authority
21 September 2023
Agenda Item: 11

MOU Agreements Update

As most of the Board Members know, I have been attending your Council meetings to discuss and seek support for the MOU Agreement which needs to be signed to carry out the CVCA's Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) program.

There have been many positive reactions to the MOU and there has been strong support for the MOU and the OBBN program, as it is an excellent method to track water quality in the CVCA watershed.

Of the eight municipalities so far, seven have agreed to sign the agreement as presented. Limerick Township has not agreed to date, but neither did their Council say no to the agreement. The Limerick Council had some concerns and decided to defer their decision to the next meeting which will be held on the 18th of September. I have had further communication and discussion with Limerick staff to answer questions raised after my presentation. I remain positive that we will have good news from Limerick that will be shared at our Board meeting. There was an excellent article in the Bancroft Times (31st August 2023) about the Limerick Council meeting I attended.

The remaining two municipalities to make a decision whether to support the OBBN program or not are North Kawartha (19th of Sept) and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen. They are scheduled for the 19th of September 2023 and the 3rd of October 2023.

As a reminder, in order to implement the OBBN program, the MOU's need to be signed by the 31st of December 2023.

In the meantime, for the municipalities that have agreed to sign the MOU, I will require our Chair Jim Martin to sign the agreements on behalf of the CVCA and distribute a signed copy to the municipalities.

A progress report is to be submitted to the Province by the 1st of October. Depending on the outcomes with the remaining three municipalities to make a decision, there is an opportunity to request an extension if necessary. Since we only have three municipalities left, there should not be a need to make that request unless there is an issue brought forward at this meeting.

Regarding the OBBN program and the MOU's, I recommend since the program collects critical water quality data for the entire watershed, all municipalities should be "on board" for the program to be implemented moving forward. Of course, this would be a Board decision.

Board Discussion

TP