

Summary of Proceedings and Feedback from the 2013 General Meeting for Representatives of CEWF Member Lake Associations

The Coalition held its Annual Meeting for Member Lake Association Representatives on September 14, 2013 at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery.

Lakes represented at the meeting included: Jack's Lake; Mountain Lake; Gull Lake; Kushog Lake; Maple/Beech/Cameron Lakes; Drag/Spruce Lakes; Glamor Lake; Miskwabi/Long Lakes; Big Bob Lake; Crystal Lake; Kennisis Lake; Cavendish Ratepayers (representing Mississagua / Catchacoma Lakes etc.); Horseshoe Lake; Twelve Mile/Little Boshkung, Percy, Eels, White, Redstone, and Anstruther.

Special guests included: Keith Hodgson, Member of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) - Water Management Advisory Council (WMAC); Murray Fearrey, Reeve Dysart et al, Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve Algonquin Highlands; Carolyn Amyotte Councillor and Barry Rand Deputy Mayor North Kawartha, Dave Burton, Reeve Highlands East, Barb Reid, Reeve Minden Hills, and from the TSW, Jewell Cunningham, Director Ontario Waterways and Dave Ness, Water Control Engineer

The Haliburton Echo & Haliburton Highlander covered the meeting.

Presentations were tied in to a comprehensive slide presentation (see CEWF website).

CEWF Secretary/Treasurer noted the addition of two new members for 2013, Eels Lake, and Anstruther Lake, both in the southern part of the TSW Haliburton Sector watershed. The membership represents 91% of the capacity of the Sector, with no additional lakes with associations that could be added. A second slide showed the income and expenses for 2013, and an expected bank balance of \$12,200 at the end of the fiscal year.

CEWF co-chair Martin Rist highlighted the details in the Annual "Report Card" included the slide presentation. CEWF co-chair Chris Riddle briefly noted that Barry Devolin's Bill (Bill C530) to create a Trent-Severn Water Authority separate from Parks Canada would continue as a Private Member's Bill in the next Parliament session that begins in mid-October. The CEWF has communicated with Barry Devolin about the fact that the Bill does not address the CEWF's main concern, separation of water management from canal operations.

TSW Water Control Engineer, Dave Ness, made a presentation with slides for which they are included in the comprehensive slide presentation. (see above note re CEWF website)

Chris Riddle reviewed the summary slides pertaining to the much larger report prepared by the CEWF on the Analysis of the Extreme Weather Event of April 2013. (see CEWF website)

A question period followed, moderated by Ted Spence, based upon member's written questions submitted in advance, as well as written during the course of the meeting. The items covered are itemized below:

- the TSW will publically release the AECOM Report shortly following a few internal procedural steps including: briefing the new Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and reviewing comments made by the TSW Water Management Advisory Committee at their last meeting.
- TSW indicated that they take weather forecasts into consideration when planning water level adjustments. Two different weather reporting sites are monitored. However, Dave Ness noted that the watershed is relatively small in area, whereas weather reports cover much broader areas, weather patterns constantly change and therefore there is a problem of accuracy for the watershed. Dave explained that it is almost impossible to predict the impacts in order to adjust the planning for log adjustments. Adjusting all 40 dams if necessary is impossible within 48 hours, so there might only be modest adjustments made to a few.
- The snow pack is monitored closely and regularly over the winter in 5 locations.
- The lake representatives suggested that the CEWF Executive needed to ramp up a more aggressive campaign with Ontario government officials as the latter are not engaged in the issues of the TSW watershed water management. The CEWF plans more work with Conservation Authorities, which are provincial entities, and will attempt to engage the municipalities in a more active way with them.
- The question was raised about whether the 40 year-old policy of equal percentage drawdown should be altered. Before any change, results from the AECOM study need to be considered, and significant modeling would have to be done to assess the impacts on all connected water in the system. Some of the problems for revision relate to trout lakes spawning requirements.
- The question of the various Gull River bottlenecks and constraints being altered in some ways could not be considered without considerable modeling to see resulting impacts.
- The TSW will include the Flow-Through lakes where water level monitors are in place, in the future weekly water level forecasts.
- The TSW website within Parks Canada is under reconstruction, but no date for implementation was given.

Next year's Communication to Lake Representatives is **Saturday, September 13th, 2014.**