

Responses to CEWF Questions from Candidates in Dysart et al

Municipality	Ward/Office	Candidate	Acclaimed?	Response?
Dysart et al	Reeve	Murray Fearrey		August 28, 2014
	Reeve	Janis Parker		September 15, 2014
	Deputy Reeve	Dennis Casey		September 24, 2014
	Deputy Reeve	Andrea Roberts		September 20, 2014
	1	Bill Davis		
	1	Bob Nichol		
	1	Nancy Wood-Roberts		
	2	Steve Dunec		
	2	David McKay		
	2	Derek Knowles		September 20, 2014
	3	Bill Sinclair		September 28, 2014
	3	Tammy Donaldson		
	4	Susan Norcross		September 24, 2014
	4	Aaron Walker		September 25, 2014
	5	Walt McKechnie	✓	

Note: Responses below are provided in the sequence received by CEWF

**Responses from Murray Fearrey
Candidate for Reeve, Dysart et al**

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

I do believe that we have a role as Municipalities to be supportive of the work that the coalition is doing. I was part of the Water Level Committee in the mid 70's and continue to stay informed and supportive of the coalition and will continue to lobby the federal government and Parks Canada to improve water management of the Trent Severn system.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

There may be some merit in contracting some services from The Kawartha Conservation Authority especially on the Gull watershed system. I believe the Trent Severn authority supersedes when it comes to governing water flows. Most of the flooding issues we experience are flash floods or when the system is backed up to avoid flooding down-stream. I do wish to point out that Dysart has done flood plain mapping and our planning documents require building levels to accommodate high water levels.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

I support the recommendations of the Water Management Study. I would continue to lend my voice to support the issues identified by the coalition member lake associations.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

I believe this question is the most critical. A dam failure could create a state of emergency in the County costing millions of dollars and much devastation to people and properties. I will certainly support the coalition's efforts to bring the dam infrastructure to a good or fair state of repair.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

As you know I was part of a meeting last spring to discuss this very issue. The local municipal emergency plans need to address this more specifically in their plans. I will commit to following this through in Dysart and will invite input from the coalition members. Local radio, social media can be key players.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

I agree that municipal government should work with the lake associations to improve water management. As for the list you have provided I don't have the expertise to comment on all the specifics. Speaking to Dysart lakes, I do know that the infrastructure needs to be repaired and maintained in a timely manner and I am very aware that the dam at Kennisis urgently requires immediate repairs and an assessment of future use should be considered. I will support all efforts made to improve and keep the infrastructure of the entire system in good repair.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My comments relate to Dysart but I do understand that the issues need to be considered at the County level.

Murray Fearrey

**Responses from Janis Parker
Candidate for Reeve, Dysart et al**

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

Municipalities must ensure their voices, and the voices of their lake communities are heard by the TSW. Our municipality must ensure that our concerns are heard and lobby for a position at the discussion table. I support the excellent work that is being done by the CEWF, I do get regular updates as a member of the board of the KLCOA, and will support their objectives at the municipal and county table.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

Yes, I believe that this is definitely worth considering. Outsourcing or partnering with an established Conservation Authority will allow us to see if there is value for Dysart, and Haliburton County. It has been said that the dollars spent on a Conservation Authority have had excellent return on investment.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

Yes, I can definitely support the recommendations of this study, and the findings of the CEWF. Lake quality and lake levels rank very high on our Lake Associations concerns, and we need to support out lake communities.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

Yes, this information is essential to the well being of our whole community. Without information, we cannot plan, predict, educate and/or offer solutions. There must be constant pressure put on Parks Canada to bring all dams up to a safe state of repair.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for

example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

As a result of the Minden Flood, we quickly found out how poor communication was from the MNR to our County and Municipalities. Then Warden Carol Moffatt, quickly identified, challenged and corrected this lack of communication. Important lessons were learned, and communication has improved. Dysart needs to ensure their disaster information plan is ready, and that information can be obtained via many sources. Electronically, radio broadcasts, work of mouth and printed notifications. Dysart should have a Disaster Relief Co-coordinator identified, and ready for immediate action. There should be a discussion about a process to access emergency funds, while waiting for provincial funds.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

Dysart has strongly supported Lake Associations in the past, and I absolutely agree they should continue to work with our Lake Associations in the future. Lake quality, shoreline preservation, lake levels are important to the well being of Dysart et al. The KLCOA has asked to be involved with the planning of the new dam, as I believe Dysart has. I would advocate for regular updates from the MNR & TSW during the engineering, and construction phases for this project. I would also advocate for information regarding all other projects that the CEWF have either currently identified, or will identify in the future. The work of the CEWF is to be congratulated and your perseverance commendable.

**Responses from Andrea Roberts
Candidate for Deputy Reeve**

I appreciate the work that the CEFW is doing but am not familiar with all the details. I look forward to hearing more about this organization. I think groups like this who get engaged in the political process and are passionate about their cause are a vital part of the community and can help guide governments.

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

Yes I agree that municipalities have a role to play in improving the management of the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed by advocating for better maintenance and communication. The infrastructure is aging needs to be updated. As well, extreme weather has created dramatic changes in water levels and the communication to the affected municipalities needs to be improved.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

Yes it makes sense to utilize the experience of existing plans.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response: I am not familiar with the AECOM study so don't feel I can comment.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

I have served on Dysart's council for two terms now and water management is not a responsibility of the lower tier. I feel it's vitally important to ensure the dams are in a good state of repair and I would be interested in seeing the Parks Canada reviews of our local dams.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for

example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

I think Dysart does a good job of communicating all issues. We have a great social media presence so people should try to get connected and follow us if there are emergencies or warnings. We are also fortunate to have a wonderful community radio station that can get out public service messages. The municipality does have an emergency plan for all situations and it is tested regularly.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

Lake associations are very important because they can monitor and observe potential problems. In terms of the examples given the only one I am familiar with is the Kennisis Lake dam, which I know is scheduled for repairs in 2015.

**Responses from Derek Knowles
Candidate for Ward 2**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I assure you that I am keenly aware of how much the lakefront property owners on the lakes in question contribute to the municipal tax base. Unfortunately, some of your questions require a knowledge of the subject that at this time I simply do not have. For this reason I have left questions 2 and 5 unanswered.

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

I agree that municipalities have a role to play and I will support any reasonable initiatives by the Coalition that come before Council.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 no response:

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

I would support the recommendations of the AECOM Water Management Study.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

I would urge the federal government to ensure the safety of persons and property by investing in dams and infrastructure. All dam safety reviews should be available to the public as they are completed.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 no response:

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

Yes, I agree that municipalities should work with the lake associations to facilitate water management improvements and repairs to dams, etc. I am aware that the Kennisis Lake dam is in poor condition and requires immediate repairs. I will also support any initiatives to maintain the system in good condition.

**Responses from Susan Norcross
Candidate for Ward 4**

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

I agree that municipalities have a role to play in working with CEWF to improve water management. I would personally like to participate on their committee meetings in future and would do my best to support stronger communications between Council and CEWF. I support this group's efforts with similar concerns regarding our water management and water quality.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

Having had a recent more thorough explanation of the current situation with CA's in our area, there appears to be merit in seeking occasional contracts from existing Conservation Authorities to provide our area with specific expertise and services.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

Yes I support the key recommendation of AECOM study that TSW adopt a constraint based water management model. I would like to stay informed and be involved in a position of support.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

Dam failure could be catastrophic to our community and I would absolutely support a request that Parks Canada provide us with safety reviews. It is imperative the federal government invest in dam repairs and maintenance in a proactive manner.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

Continual reviews of current Municipality emergency plans should be mandatory, i.e. annually by Council and staff and those involved in emergency planning and response. I liken this to a fire drill. Lake Association representation could be invited to attend such reviews for their information and understanding. In many working environments annual fire drills are mandatory. Municipal Emergency Plans should be considered equally as urgent for improving communications to understanding who plays what part in the likelihood of a flood event emergency. Our local media should also be invited.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

Yes I agree the municipality should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to the water management operations. As to the Kennisis Lake Dam, I would agree to review the proposal of any infrastructure improvements such as docking and ramp facilities.

**Responses from Dennis Casey
Candidate for Deputy Reeve**

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

Absolutely our municipalities and counties should be involved in playing a role in the water management of our section of the Trent River system. I am also supportive of the work of CEWF in monitoring, communicating and advocating for changes to the system.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

It is my understanding that Conservation Authorities are expensive to administrate and operate. This being the case, a contract with a CA may be beneficial in terms of its expertise in the areas of flood management and hopefully see some economic savings. I would also press for municipal and county representation on any committees or boards that may be developed during this process.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

I am quite comfortable with the recommendations of the Study. The system was originally established in 1905 and the infrastructure needs of today's users have changed. However, the system has not evolved to address the changes. The concern of water flow inequity must be addressed relevant to today's uses and needs.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

Yes. Parks Canada has an obligation to keep us informed. We do have a right to know. Because of the flooding last spring we all have become more aware of our dams and the water system that flows through our communities. This is most important as we need to protect our public assets and those of ratepayers.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

The lack of communication was quite evident during the Minden flood last year and it seemed to be a struggle to get information and updates. Although low water situations maybe not create the same kind of emergency, they do create logistical problems with many individuals. Once a low water situation is about to occur, I would like to see better communications from the appropriate authority to inform the public. Using the radio media would work the best for this as they offer these types of announcement under their PSA process. In terms of flooding, every municipality has an Emergency Management Team. I would work for better cooperation between the MNR, the TSW and Park Canada. One of the most crucial jobs of this group would be timely updates to the public.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

Municipalities should continue to work with individual lake associations and coalitions. We are all in this together and water is one of our most basic assets. This relation is important not only from a water flow perspective from water quality as well. I have direct knowledge of the Kennisis Lake dam and it is good to hear that there will be an August 2015 start on that project.

My knowledge of equitable flow is limited as it is not directly a municipal/county issue. However my commitment is to advocate for and on behalf of CEWF to do what ever I can to help. Whether be a supplier of water or a user of water, we are all obligated to make Trent Water System work. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Responses from Aaron Walker
Candidate for Ward 4**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these questions; water management at the watershed level is integral to maintaining our infrastructure.

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

Yes, I strongly believe that the Municipality has a responsibility to advocate on behalf of the Coalition in the interest of protecting our headwaters. As a municipal Councilor I will work collaboratively with the Council as a whole and the Coalition to lobby the Federal government and Parks Canada to steward our waterways and those of the TSW.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

There is certainly a benefit to partnering with an existing Conservation Authority; Growing on their existing foundation of experience and knowledge without incurring major capital cost at a Municipal level.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

I agree with the recommendations of the Water Management Study; the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners and most lake associations are key supporters of water quality and water level. I will support strategic initiatives implemented by these organizations or the CEWF.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

This is of paramount importance; our critical infrastructure regarding dams and waterways have to be maintained in a safe and acceptable state. I would advocate for the immediate repair or replacement of any and all substandard dams, in particular the dam at Kennisis.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

I believe that there is already a decent level of communications through social media, radio and other media. I would welcome suggestions from community stakeholders and the CEWF to improve this area.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

I absolutely agree that Municipal government should develop partnerships with local lake associations to support the management of operations and infrastructure of reservoir lakes. The specific list of action items I cannot comment on without further research.

Thank you for including me in this collection of views from our candidates,

Warm regards,

Aaron Walker

Responses from Bill Sinclair
Candidate for Ward 3

Should I be elected, I will work co-operatively to consider all matters that come up before Council.