

Jeanne Harfield  
The Town of Mississippi Mills  
3131 Old Perth Rd Box 400, Almonte, ON K0A 1A0

March 19, 2021

Dear Ms. Harfield,

As a member of the Authority, please find below highlights from the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority for distribution to Council. Complete minutes for the meeting will be circulated following their approval by the Board at the next meeting.

#### **Board Members**

The Board welcomed new member Andrew Tennant from Carleton Place.

#### **Watershed Conditions Statement**

Water Resources Technologist Jennifer North provided the current spring flood outlook for the Mississippi River watershed. As always, this is weather dependent and could change.

- The spring melt has been slow and steady and above average flooding is not predicted at this time;
- Snowpack in the upper portion of the watershed is ripe (saturated with precipitation and previous snow melt) and will liquify quickly in warm temperatures and rainfall;
- Flows are expected to increase as snow melt continues, but should stabilize in a few weeks.
- Dams are being operated to mitigate upstream and downstream flooding while working to establish summer target levels as set in the *Water Management Plan*.

#### **Shabomeka Lake Dam Loan**

The Board approved staff negotiating a loan for MVCA's share of the cost to replace the Shabomeka Lake Dam. Treasurer Angela Millar explained that the total project value is ~\$1.5M, and that application had been made to the province for a 50% grant. The concept of debt financing had been previously approved in principle during approval of the *Interim Financial Plan* and updated *10-year Capital Plan*.

#### **Dogs at Conservation Areas**

General Manager Sally McIntyre indicated that while site signage and MVCA's website clearly indicate that dogs must be kept on-leash, many owners allow their dogs off-leash. This problem has grown during the pandemic with an increased number of visitors to both the Mill of Kintail and Morris Island

sites. The Board supported enhanced compliance promotion as an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of and reasons for keeping pets leashed and for staying on trail generally.

## **Grants**

General Manager Sally McIntyre indicated that the following grants have been applied for:

- WECI for dams and related studies
- CMOG for museum – in progress
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) – on-going
- Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (Community Foundations Canada) – submitted for K&P bridge repairs (second round planned in May)
- National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) – submitted for: a) LIDAR data acquisition; b) watershed model development; and c) Flood Risk Assessment
- Nature based climate solutions (NBCS) Expression of Interest – in progress - partnering with Ducks Unlimited Canada

## **Annual Report**

General Manager Sally McIntyre presented the 2020 Annual Report. See attached document for highlights.

## **Planning Advisory Services**

Environmental Planners Diane Reid and Erica Ogden indicated that nearly 300 (297) planning applications were received in 2020 with a high volume in Carp and Kanata North, Constance Bay and Mississippi Lake due to the 2019 flood. Applications are also up in lake country. The difference between regulatory and advisory services was outlined, as were several challenges being addressed due in part to the volume and complexity of applications being received.