

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

April 29, 2021

Dear Ms. Harfield,

As a member of the Authority, please find below highlights from the April 21st 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.

Watershed Conditions Statement

Water Resources Engineer Chris McGuire provided an update with respect to watershed conditions across the Mississippi River watershed. As always, this is weather dependent and could change.

- There was below average runoff during the spring freshet due to sublimation (the process of snow and ice changing into water vapor in the air without first melting into water) and below average April precipitation;
- Dams were operated earlier and more aggressively in an effort to meet summer target levels as set in the *Water Management Plan*. Most lakes are currently at their summer target levels with the exception of Kashwakamak, Mississagagon, Big Gull and Crotch. Significant precipitation is needed to bring these lakes up to target before the long weekend in May;
- Without significant precipitation, the next step will be to declare a Level 1 Low Water Condition. Because long term forecasts are calling for a dry May and June, MVCA is closely monitoring the indicators and updating the Low Water Response Team.

Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting

Janet Mason (Voting Delegate), Jeff Atkinson, and Sally McIntyre virtually attended the Conservation Ontario (CO) Annual General Meeting held on April 12th.

Highlights:

- In December 2020, CO submitted a letter to Minister Yurek requesting that the Ministry indemnify a CA that is required to issue a permit due to a ministerial decision such as a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO). There has been no response to this letter.
- In December 2020, Minister Yurek formed a Conservation Authorities Working Group (CAWG) with the mandate to “help implement changes to conservation authorities”.

- Work of the CAWG is divided into two phases. The Province is expected to release its position on topics from Phase 1 in the next two weeks for public consultation.
- CO has set up a Governance Accountability and Transparency Initiative Steering Committee to help CAs implement the legislative amendments to the CA Act.
- Thirteen CAs have submitted requests to the Minister for an exemption for the terms of board chair and vice chair. Only three have heard back and had their exemptions approved. (At this point in time, MVCA has not had a reply to its request for an exemption.)

Mill of Kintail Museum

A special advisory committee (SAC) struck by Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) has submitted its report to the MVCA Board of Directors with three options for the future of the Mill of Kintail Museum. Co-chaired by Board members Christa Lowry, Mayor of Mississippi Mills and Jeff Atkinson, Councillor from Carleton Place, the Committee has met several times since Bill 108, the *More Home, More Choice Act*, directed Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs) to focus activities and municipal levies on their core mandate, sending the Mill of Kintail Museum into a funding and governance crisis. A public information session will be held virtually on April 29 at 7:00 PM. For more information visit www.mvc.on.ca/museum.

Amendment to Fee Schedule

Since the Board of Directors approved the 2021 Fee Schedules at its October 2020 meeting, the water resources department received a significant request to deliver digital models and data. Both Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and South Nation Conservation charge a flat fee for providing digital copies of their models, and cost recover staff time expended in fulfilling the request. In order to be consistent with partner conservation authorities, the Board approved updating Schedule D:

Schedule D	Proposed Addition to Approved 2021 Schedule	
Information, Professional Services	Models – digital copies	
	Hydrologic Model (HEC-HMS, SWMHYMO, PCSWMM)	\$2,060 plus staff time
	Hydraulic Model (HEC2, HEC-RAS)	\$2,060 plus staff time

Permit Update

Manager of Planning & Regulations Matt Craig noted that the Planning and Regulations department is receiving a higher than normal volume of permit applications and inquiries and staff are working as quickly as possible to process application and information requests.

Mississippi Valley Source Protection Authority Meeting

The Mississippi Valley Source Protection Authority received the 2020 Source Protection Annual Progress Report which is to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) by May 1 of each year and is to be provided to the SPC for comment at least 30 days prior to this. The report summarizes:

- Measures taken to implement the source protection plan;
- Results of monitoring policies;
- The extent to which objectives of the plan are being achieved; and,
- Other information that might be required by the regulation.

Overall progress for 2020 was P: Progressing Well/On Target, meaning that the majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.