

CEWF Update - 8Jan2014

Happy New Year to all Coalition Members:

I hope that you are managing through this unusual winter weather. Since our general communication meeting for lake association members in September, the CEWF Executive Committee members have been engaged in a wide variety of actions and communications. The purpose of this email is to highlight a number of these, some of which are noted on our website.

- In addition to a meeting of the TSW's Water Management Advisory Council, there have been 2 formal meetings with the TSW management. The subjects discussed included: fall water levels and TSW communications or lack thereof; the TSW website, water level data updates and forecasts; the results of the dam safety reviews; the AECOM water management study and the AECOM Report on the 2013 spring flood; as well as provision of more specific information to the CEWF on recent TSW water management actions
- In answer to some of our members requesting clarification of the Mandate of the TSW, the CEWF Executive drafted a document that contains our understanding of the TSW's mandate: this has been posted on the CEWF website.
- Lacking any general communication from the TSW, the CEWF posted a summary of the "Reservoir Lake Higher Water Levels This Fall" to provide our members with a better understanding of the facts following the publication of a number of articles in the local media with misleading information.
- Recently, we were very pleased to see the TSW update their multi-year water level charts including the complete 2013 water level data. Copies of these charts have been posted on our website for all reservoir lakes in the Haliburton Sector.
- We continue to meet with organizations such as the Kawartha Conservation Authority, as well as with municipal leaders, and to correspond with Coalition members engaged in developing 'preferred water levels' for their lakes.

For 2014, the members of the CEWF Executive are discussing what priority actions to undertake and what communication tools need to be provided our members with facts and questions to raise with municipal politicians running for the October elections. We will also be anticipating the best way to approach candidates running in a provincial election, if called.

Two members of the Executive, in answer to an invitation from MP Barry Devolin, are attending a meeting this week with a number of politicians at the municipal, provincial and federal level, and other interested invitees on the subject of improved water management and flood communications by MNR and the TSW.

In conclusion, I note that the water levels on most of the reservoir lakes have finally returned to levels close to the multi-year average after some very high fall water levels. This should help the TSW determine how best to prepare for the spring freshet and upcoming navigation season.

If recent years have taught us anything however, it is that the TSW's ability to manage the system for both navigation and flood control in both 'wet' and 'dry' years is limited due in part to the physical flow constraints on the Gull and Burnt river systems in particular.

Any questions, comments or concerns should be directed by email to cewfchair@yahoo.ca

All the best to you for 2014.

Roger Cunningham, CEWF Secretary-Treasurer