

Summary of Proceedings and Feedback from the 2011 General Meeting for Representatives of CEWF Member Lake Associations

The Coalition held its Annual Meeting of Member Lake Association Representatives on September 17, 2011 at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery.

Lakes represented at the meeting included: Jack Lake; Mountain Lake; Gull Lake; Kushog Lake; Maple/Beech/Cameron Lakes; Canning Lake; Drag/Spruce Lakes; Koshlong Lake; Glamor Lake; Redstone Lake; Miskwabi Lake; Kashagawigamog Lake; Big Bob Lake; Esson Lake; Loon Lake; 12 Mile / Little Boshkung Lakes; Crystal Lake; Eel's Lake; Fortescue Lake; Haliburton Lake; Kennisis Lake; Cavendish Ratepayers (representing Mississagua / Catchacoma Lakes etc.); White Lake; Horseshoe Lake; Halls and Hawk Lakes.

Special guests included: Chuck Richard, Chair of the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) - Water Management Advisory Council (WMAC); Keith Hodgson, Member of the TSW WMAC; Roger Stanley, Director of Canal Operations, TSW and Ryan Hamersma, Haliburton Area Superintendant, TSW.

Presentations were tied in to a comprehensive slide presentation (see related posting)

The Haliburton Echo covered the meeting (see related article).

CEWF co-chair Chris Riddle made a presentation on two priority areas: (1) the need for an Integrated Approach to Water Management at the Watershed level; and (2) the development of lake-specific "preferred water levels during the navigation season".

A 90-minute panel discussion, moderated by Ted Spence, dealt with a wide range of water management issues raised by CEWF Members. The TSW representatives were 'centre-stage' for much of the time and provided many detailed responses to general and lake-specific questions; additional information was provided by panel members Martin Rist, Bill Cornfield and Chris Riddle. Some of the points made were that:

- the water management model being used in 2011 involves the drawdown of the reservoir lakes starting 100 days before September 30th at the steady rate of 0.5% per day of the total planned drawdown – in an attempt to match a "redline" rule curve (TSW);
- communications, especially the TSW website water levels information, is a high priority and will be improved for 2012 (TSW);

- a new water control technician is being hired by the TSW and a hiring decision is expected by the end of calendar 2011 (TSW);
- the TSW do not measure water levels on non-dam controlled lakes, hence no gauges are planned to be put on flow-through lakes such as Mountain Lake;
- the MNR should be more engaged with TSW and CEWF for information regarding fisheries;
- golf courses get permits to take water from the province, but use relatively little water from the system in the overall scheme of things;
- quarry operations flow most of the water back into the ground
- revenue generation from hydro plants is valued by the TSW, but not all plants have arrangements with the TSW and a number of complicating factors regarding revenue from hydro plants in the sector make it difficult to provide specific information.

After the meeting CEWF Members provided feedback that will be used in planning future events. Comments included:

- Meeting not long enough
- Very informative meeting, sometime too general
- Not enough time for the Panel discussion
- Not enough tough questions
- TSW responses were the ‘party line’ – not very satisfactory
- CEWF doing a super job
- TSW not appearing to change their ways
- Fully support “Integrated” approach
- Thanks for representing us
- Some questions by audience too lake specific
- Meeting well planned
- Invite the local MNR fisheries expert to a future meeting
- Invite provincial and municipal politicians



Redstone Lake at a ‘Preferred Water Level’