

On Saturday September 8, 2018, CEWF held our Annual Communications Meeting attended by representatives of our member lake associations. The meeting agenda included administrative reports from the CEWF Executive Committee as well as a detailed review of the water management experience in 2018. Presentations included a review of the Parks Canada capital construction program in the reservoir area and a review of 2018 water management experience from the TSW Water Management Manager of the Trent Severn Waterway of Parks Canada. The Chair of CEWF presented a report to members as well as a review of the CEWF perspective on the 2018 water management experience.

The CEWF report on **Administrative matters** was presented by the CEWF Secretary-Treasurer, Roger Cunningham, and included a review of membership and of CEWF finances.

The **CEWF Executive Committee Report to Members** was presented by CEWF Chair, Ted Spence. The slides from that presentation are attached – [click here](#). The report reviews the activities of CEWF organized under the 2018 priorities as presented on our website.

Anna Ciorap, the Acting TSW Water Management Manager, presented a review of **the Parks Canada Capital Construction Program** in the reservoir area. She reviewed the projects recently completed as well as the status on ongoing and planned projects – [click here](#)

The meeting then turned to a review of water management experience in 2018. **CEWF Chair, Ted Spence, opened the discussion with a presentation titled “A CEWF Perspective on the Changing Context of TSW Water Management”** – [click here](#). Ted reviewed the complexity to the TSW System, recent water management experience, and the projected impacts of climate change on our region. He emphasized the extreme variability in weather events which we have experienced in recent years, noting the drought conditions of 2016, and the extreme rainfall events of spring 2017 and above average rainfall through the rest of 2017.

Ted presented a detailed review of the highly variable weather patterns this year. January and February saw significant rain events and the snowpack was much less than normal at the end of the period. March was a dry month and there was very little snowpack at month’s end. April saw a major rain/ice/snow event in mid month followed by warmer weather and the filling of the reservoirs.

The TSW strategy into early May was to maintain reservoir storage capacity to manage flood risks. At the beginning of May the forecast of a major rain event as in 2017 resulted in the decision to drawdown reservoir levels. The rainfall event did not materialize and drought conditions prevailed from early May through to mid July. Many lakes were slow to fill. However TSW instituted water conservation and minimum flows on the Kawartha Lakes and on the Otonabee and Trent Rivers. The levels in the reservoirs were managed close to average levels throughout the summer in spite of the very dry conditions over most of the Trent basin until late July. CEWF complimented the TSW management on the outstanding job of managing levels and flows in 2018 under very dry conditions.

The final presentation was made by Anna Ciorap, The TSW Acting Water Management Manager, who reviewed the TSW experience and strategy in 2018 – [click here](#). Her presentation included details on the extensive monitoring network that TSW now has in place to ensure the water management team has full information on water levels and flows, snowpack measurements, and precipitation amounts. She explained the daily analysis that underlies the decisions on dam operations throughout the basin. She presented graphs and maps that documented the extreme variability in rainfall events across the reservoir area in spring and summer of 2018. She documented the comparison with the drought in 2016

and the surplus rainfall of 2017, and the 2018 experience. She showed how the overall reservoir storage has been managed to maintain average levels in the face of very dry spring and early summer conditions.

The meeting concluded with ample time for questions and discussion from the lake association representatives present.