

Responses to CEWF from Elected Representatives

Municipal Election, October 22, 2018

Algonquin Highlands

Carol Moffatt, Mayor, Acclaimed

Having grown up as a cottager on an Algonquin Highlands flow-through lake, I fully understand the effects and frustrations of fluctuating water levels. I Tweet regularly about #reservoirlakesand just a few weeks ago Tweeted photos of my dad's "midsummer mudflats".

I've been involved in the "water levels file" for much of my 12 years as an elected official and fully understand that management of the water isn't nearly as easy as many believe it to be; that it's both complex and complicated. We don't have to like it but we have to understand it in order to make change.

I was the County Warden when the 2013 floods occurred, and I managed daily phone calls with TSW in order to advise the public, via social media and radio, of that ever-changing situation. As a photographer I sought out a pilot who could fly me over the flood zones for aerial photographs which were then shared with other municipalities and the public in order to fully demonstrate the severity of the situation. In the absence of any communications strategy by others, my social media reach on the issue was upwards of 70,000 and helped keep the public informed and focused in a frightening time. Those photos have been much-used in a variety of lobbying work, and I regularly solicit anecdotal and photographic feedback from the public, also for use in lobbying.

Following the 2013 flood, I called a meeting with MNRF and TSW to discuss the communications challenges experienced at that time, discussions which contributed significantly to the much-improved communications that now exists between and among a wide range of stakeholders affected by water levels. As well, an entirely new flood-related section was added to the County website; and last year we introduced a Road Closures page to the County site where public works staff can quickly notify the public of any road problems - including flooding. We haven't fixed the fluctuating levels, but at least we're better prepared than ever to help keep people informed and safe.

Since then, I've actively participated in spring freshet conference calls, along with local, regional and other stakeholders, so that we can better prepare for spring levels and inform the public about what's happening.

For a long time, municipalities weren't permitted to participate in CEWF and I lobbied against that, citing political access to upper levels of government necessary for the good work of CEWF. As such, I am thrilled with the creation of the Upper Trent Watershed Management Partnership that pairs the brains of CEWF with the political access of local politicians. I'm proud to be Co-Chair of UTWMP and help provide a regular forum for the six municipalities to discuss issues and strategies.

I was pleased to be one of two Mayors who presented the mandate, concerns and mitigation plans of UTWMP directly to the ministers of Natural Resources and Environment at the 2017 annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). I was also proud to be part of a multi-partner meeting, including TSW, to discuss collaboration toward common goals on the matter. Along with my colleagues, I was extremely satisfied with the County's subsequently successful application to the National Disaster Mitigation Program to get digital terrain mapping for the purposes of risk assessment,

flood mapping and mitigation planning and protection. Publicly-provided flooding photos from my files were used to illustrate the severity and effect in the County - which is why I keep everything! (side note: Thank you has to go to County Planner Charlseay White for the professionalism and dedication she demonstrated in keeping this file moving and successful).

So far, we've substantially moved the needle in terms of communication, collaboration and planning ... but we've only just begun.

1. What would I do to strengthen the OP? We await the LiDAR mapping as noted above; and we should be discussing increased waterfront setbacks not only to keep safe both public and private infrastructure but also to reduce municipal liability and keep people safe when the water comes because our new normal has proven to be fickle and demanding.
2. Should municipalities work with MNRF and TSW on water management operations? Yes; when the control of the water was transferred to the federal government in the early 1900s there wasn't much happening in the watershed and it's drastically different now. It seems unreasonable that the economy and lifestyle of one region (the canal) trumps that of the reservoir system. I appreciate it's an old system built in a different time however, discussion needs to continue in this regard.

Liz Danielson, Councillor for Ward 2 – Acclaimed

1. Municipalities absolutely have a support role to play in guiding the improvement of equitable water management systems. Working with both the CEWF and UTWMP communications must continue with both TSW and MNRF. Despite considerable improvement over the last few years, I am personally committed to offering whatever support I can in helping to strengthen these lines of communication. Even prior to being elected in Algonquin Highlands, I have urged members of CEWF to include municipalities, if not in CEWF's membership, in a partnership to help lobby upper levels of government to ensure fair and equitable management of the watershed's resources.
2. As the municipality's Deputy Mayor, I have been able to participate in both the county's official plan development as well as the OP for Algonquin Highlands. I have long voiced my support to put in place requirements for greater setbacks and shoreline protections. Through the County I was extremely pleased to support the application for digital and flood plain mapping to assist in risk management. While it is my understanding that this is the first phase of a larger project, should I be appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor I will continue to support this and any other helpful initiative in this regard.

In addition to work strengthening official plans Algonquin Highlands and the County are both working to improve infrastructure like culverts and ditching to ensure better water flow and reduce flooding. I have also strongly supported the development of a shoreline protection program/by-law that will also control structural changes to the shorelines themselves. I will continue to support these initiatives.

3. I believe that open lines of communications and partnerships between the County, lower tier municipalities and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations on behalf of all the lake associations in the county and beyond must continue. Initiatives being undertaken by individual lake associations to carefully document water levels, take samples and provide information that will assist in protecting fish habitat are crucial. Their work is absolutely key in helping to ensure the health of our lakes and in establishing minimum water level standards needed to continue to enjoy our most important resource.

Dysart et al

Andrea Roberts, Mayor

1. Yes, I do feel municipalities have a role to play in the management of the Haliburton area of the Trent watershed. I would continue to advocate that a representative from each municipality be on the UTWMP and that they report back to the county and their local municipality. The elected officials represent the property owners in their area and can ask questions, voice concerns and have first-hand information to be shared. In the past the management of the TSW had no local input yet we in the upper lakes are directly affected with decisions made by the TSW.

2. I fully supported the county's decision to have LiDAR mapping and I hope once this is completed, we can have a better understanding of what is needed to prevent and prepare for future flooding. Dysart has just completed their most current Official Plan however there are others ways to ensure preparedness. At our local level we need to be sure we are building any new infrastructure that can withstand flooding that occurs with greater frequency than in past years.

3. Collaboration with TSW, MNRF, lake associations and local municipalities is essential to ensuring the best practices for water management, the health of our lakes and rivers and the habitat that depend on them. It can seem at times that we are not making a difference and that dealing with upper levels of government gets us nowhere, but public pressure is essential and we cannot simply say, "they are looking after it". We live here and know first-hand the damage that poor management can do. Draining the upper lakes so boats can get through the locks for pleasure cruising is not benefitting the environment and that should be the priority.

Patrick Kennedy, Deputy Mayor

1. Yes, I believe that Municipalities should be an active partner in this initiative. It is important that they be represented in any discussions or recommendations that could potentially negatively impact our lakefront property owners or residents.

2. I strongly believe that mitigation planning for major emergencies (including flooding) is needed to ensure the safety of our residents and preservation of our properties.

I am pleased to see that the County was successful in receiving funding to undertake the initial steps to identify and update flood plain mapping, and that staff have been directed to apply for Phase 2 funding this fall. This data will be extremely important as mitigation strategies are developed in the future.

I served as Director of Emergency Services for the County for 8 years, so have an extensive background in emergency management, and believe in the old adage "plan for the worst, hope for the best".

3. The four municipalities and the County continue to work cooperatively with the lake associations and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association on the shoreline preservation initiative and the septic inspection program. The County is toughening up the tree cutting and shoreline preservation bylaw to further protect shoreline cover.

I believe that water management is an equally important component of the overall need to ensure good lake health for our lakefront property owners, our off-water residents and our many visitors.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has a mandate to "protect Ontario's biodiversity while promoting economic opportunities in the resource sector and supporting outdoor recreation opportunities". (from

their website). The Fish and Wildlife Program needs to return to regular monitoring using standardized data collection methods of our lake-trout lakes to ensure that the future viability of not only spawning habitat and the monitoring of water levels in the fall, but to monitor the overall lake-trout health in our lakes.

Larry Clarke, Councillor, Ward 2

1. Municipalities have a responsibility to represent the interests of all of its property owners regarding safe occupancy, and in the case of lake, river or wetland frontage or ownership, reasonable access to, and protection of, water or wetland assets.

The interests of property owners regarding water levels of rivers and lakes in the Municipality must be addressed by the Township to ensure reasonable enjoyment of water resources. Although water levels fluctuate seasonally, draw down of levels to supply water needs of competing interests downstream is an issue that impacts enjoyment of lakes and rivers, and as a result, property values and the local economy.

Data regarding risk to properties and residents must also be developed, maintained, and regularly updated in contingency planning at the Township level with defined responsibilities for flood mitigation. This must be developed in conjunction with Provincial and Federal authorities.

2. Flood plain mapping and identification of infrastructure vulnerability due to extreme weather events are necessary to enable future planning for settlement areas, building standards and emergency services.

With our changing climate and aging infrastructure, Townships need to review regularly the suitability and functionality of flood management assets, including drainage systems to protect roads and properties.

The Townships Official Plan needs to include flood or drainage risk in its updates, and its bylaws must reflect building standards for houses and roads impacted by flooding or drainage issues to mitigate these risks.

3. The use and value of water resources need periodic review to ensure that all stakeholders are considered in decisions affecting water levels, and that the Townships have the relevant data from their Lake Associations to represent the interests of their waterfront residents in dealing with TSW and MNRF.

a) Priority for access to water resources based on historic agreements are out of date in most watersheds, and do not reflect the economic value to communities that have reservoir lakes and three or four-season residences. Recreational use of lakes that are part of the reservoir, or flow through system, need to be assessed to ensure that the economic value of lake use is understood. This is of particular importance for lakes that have water only access during the fall draw down.

b) Both water level and climate change have significant impact on the variety of fish and spawning habitat of our lakes. Roles, responsibilities and resources of Provincial and Federal levels of government to study, monitor and manage impacts of change need to be reestablished. This must to be pushed by all townships with cold water lakes if we wish to maintain recreational fishing.

John Smith, Councillor, Ward 4

1. I absolutely agree that our local municipalities should be involved and playing a role in the water management of our portion of the watershed area. As a member of the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association (KLCOA) I benefitted considerably from the efforts of the CEWF in terms of education, knowledge sharing and advocating on behalf of property owners on lakes which feed the TSW. More

recently as a Board member of the KLCOA I have had an even better opportunity to see firsthand the value of the CEWF work. I firmly believe our local government must work more closely with lake associations in a variety of areas, including water management. I am personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership and would welcome the opportunity to be personally involved in this work as a Dysart Councillor.

2. Although the flood history in Dysart has not been as bad as some other parts of Haliburton County, I do think we need to better understand our flood risks. Mapping and planning would assist with the related decision making. The highwater levels of some recent Spring seasons have impacted lake front properties across Dysart. At least one home on Redstone Lake required multiple levels of sandbags to protect their house from flooding. Damage to property owners' infrastructure (docks and such) has been common. Getting a more complete understanding of the impact of very high-water levels would help us guide discussions regarding water level management and inform property owners of steps they can take to protect their own property.

3. I am in complete agreement that our local municipal governments should be working with lake associations, the TSW and the MNRF to continue to improve water management operations for the benefit of property owners on all reservoir and flow-through lakes. I would also invite the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations) to join the discussions since not all lake associations have sufficient volunteers to effectively participate. We need to recognize that water level preferences vary lake to lake and even property to property. I believe we must do a better job of understanding and managing to the desired outcomes lake by lake based on input from each lake association. The CHA and lake associations often have lake-specific data re trout spawning and are committed to improving and protecting fish habitat. We should support their objectives.

Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

David Gerow, Deputy Mayor

1. Yes, I do agree that municipalities have a role in working with all levels of government who have a vested interest in managing our water. Together we should be partners in the best interest of water. I am personally committed to continue my municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.

2. I certainly will support any changes for the better in our upcoming municipal Official Plan. In regards to the flood plain mapping and the flood mitigation planning, we should use these as a tool for decision-making.

3. HBM has had a strong relationship for some years with our lake associations. We have the HBMLA (Havelock Belmont Methuen Lake Association) who we work very closely with in regards to water issues. We have and will continue to work with MNRF. I personally do not know of too many occasions that we have dealt with the TSW (Trent Severn Waterway) but the more partners we have in managing our resources in such a way as to benefit everyone could only result in a positive outcome.

(a) I am not sure of what type of water conservation you are speaking of, but I do support maintaining the water levels at a consistent depth so it does not interfere with the recreational use of our reservoirs and lakes and also to protect our aquatics and natural habitat of our shorelines and shoreline species.

(b) Yes, again I feel it is very important to protect the location and depth of trout spawning beds to protect and improve fish habitat in any way that we can.

I would like to thank the CEWF for giving me this opportunity to express my sincere concern for the health, protection and enjoyment of our lakes.

Highlands East

Cam McKenzie, Councillor, Ward 1, Bicroft

1. I'm in total agreement that Municipalities should be involved in working to improve water management in the Trent River watershed located in Haliburton County. I have and will continue to support the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.
2. I spent my working career (37 years) in resource management with MNRF. One of the very basic requirements in resource decision making is accurate, current and detailed data base to work with. I will support any initiative to gather that data/mapping.
3. Municipal governments must work with all organizations and the other levels of government who are involved or have an interest in water management on Trent River watershed.

Tourism/cottaging are the backbone of economic activity in Haliburton County. We must do whatever we can to support that industry.

Once again accurate, current and complete data is required for resource management decision making. I was involved early in my career in some Lake Trout spawning bed assessments. That was 40 years ago. We need current information on each lake impacted by water level manipulation on Trent system.

Suzanne Partridge, Councillor, Ward 2, Cardiff

1. Certainly, the municipalities have a role to play. The 6 municipalities involved all committed to this when we assigned representatives to the Upper Trent Watershed Management Partnership. Being very concerned about watershed management and the lakes in my municipality, I requested to be assigned as the representative for Highlands East. I would definitely commit to further involvement for the next term of council.
2. Flood plain mapping is an integral tool to predict and manage flood prone areas as well as areas prone to low water levels during drought conditions. Mapping of flood plains would be very beneficial in future planning for all municipalities.
3. If all parties do not work together, we have very little chance of success of improving watershed management. Having sat and watched the recreational traffic at one of the locks in the Trent system this past summer, I was dismayed to see how much water was sent down stream to allow one small boat to traverse the lock system. I would encourage the Trent Severn Waterway to initiate conservation methods of their own. The timing and amount of fall draw downs is critical to the habitat and spawning cycle of our lake trout population. Mapping may very well be a beneficial tool to assist with improving their habitat.

Ruth Strong, Councillor, Ward 4, Monmouth

1. I do agree that the municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton Sector of the Trent River watershed and am personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.

2. To strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of our municipality's Official Plan, I would certainly support initiatives to provide flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making.

3. I do agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on the reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers. I would be in favour of urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes and the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat.

Minden Hills

Brent Devolin, Mayor

1. I totally agree that municipalities have a significant role to help improve water management in all 6 municipalities that make up the watershed (reservoir lakes) that serves the TSW. As a founding member, I was interested in the creation of such an organization and am committed to be part of the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). In the absence of a Conservation Authority (C.A.), municipal politicians and CEWF members formed a hybrid group that functions and is received by both federal and provincial in many of the same ways that C.A. has input on policy. The fact that UTWMP is received by both other regional C.A.'s and the MNRF is proof of success that our hybrid approach has been successful.

2. I am absolutely committed to strengthening Official Plans at any level of government (County or Municipal) that will help achieve better operational results and are part of permanent solutions to flooding and drought mitigation results. I was happy to be part of a County/Municipal initiative in 2017 at AMO in Ottawa that lobbied successfully both the provincial and federal governments to support LiDAR mapping for the reservoir lakes of the TSW. This mapping is critical so that all partners (TSW, MNRF, UTWMP, CEWF, etc.) will have super accurate ortho-photography to plot the basins to give modern accurate data for operational and asset design (i.e. Dams) planning in the future.

3. a) Water conservation is critical for a whole host of considerations, including the recreational use of reservoir lakes. I would like to have an economic analysis of the asset and GDP value of the reservoir lakes vs. the canal in 2018. In over a hundred years with the changes that have occurred in our area, I suspect that the economic value of the reservoirs lakes is huge and may perhaps be worth more than that of the canal.

b) Tourism is the leading industry in Haliburton County, and the quality of water and pristine habitat that surrounds us all underpins that worth. All data, that helps support native plant and wildlife in our growing region is of primary importance. Lake trout are a very sensitive species that are a good indicator of water quality in our lakes, and any data that helps support better operational outcomes for all species at risks is worth pursuing.

Bob Carter, Councillor, Ward 1

1. I am the President of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization and have been attending the CEWF AGM for several years. I agree that the municipalities have a key role to play in water management in the Haliburton sector. Along with the fact that water quantity and quality on our lakes are important drivers of our economy; exceptional weather events, aging infrastructure and the potential consequences of flooding

are essential reasons for the municipalities to be involved. In addition, since we have no Conservation Authority and limited support from the Provincial and Federal governments, the municipalities need to fill the void left by the other levels of government. I am strongly committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.

2. I think it is absolutely necessary to continue the work on flood plain mapping and to expand the modelling to support the decision making and planning for flooding. I will work to update our Official Plans and Bylaws to ensure that future development is done responsibly.

3. Citizen scientists and lake associations are increasing their roles on the lakes in collecting data on water quality, invasive species, fish, birds, etc. We are all stewards of these wonderful lakes and to ensure that future generations can have the same enjoyment and experiences that we have, municipalities, lake associations, FOCA, CHA, CEWF, Parks Canada, MNRF and other groups need to work together cooperatively on all the issues concerning our lakes. I strongly support initiatives to educate, employ best practices and in some cases to regulate to protect our lakes and I will work with or serve on any groups that are formed to study and address the issues.

Jennifer Hughey, Councillor, Ward 1

1. It is imperative that municipalities continue to play a role in the improvement of water management within the Haliburton Sector of the Trent River watershed. It is also imperative for government, at a local level, to remain committed to the initiatives already in play, in the form of municipal support for UTWMP. Minden Hills' track record for flooding and high-water threats continuously plays over in the minds of all parties who are now partnering to work together on this and I believe we are on the right track with this project. Climate change affects all of us. I am also an active member of Environment Haliburton!

2. If you think about an **Official Plan** – the thought is to create a document listing the municipality's goals, objectives, land use designations and "land use policies for these designations to manage and direct development and land uses throughout the Township." These "living documents" can change frequently as they are reviewed all the time.

With that in mind, to strengthen flood control and mitigation provisions, I would support research or review by a consultant that would work with the TSW or the CEWF to yes, provide better flood plain mapping and additional planning and procedures so as to streamline the decision-making process between multiple parties. My entire career has been based around planning, pre-planning, post-planning and execution and that would greatly benefit our municipality of a mitigated provisional process of including more on this in the Official Plan. I think there needs to be a discussion on the need to halt development in the flood plain, or to naturalize these areas for the *public benefit*, like with parks and nature areas. If you have been following along, you will know that MH Council, in fact, is doing the opposite - they were disposing of property assets listed as flood plain. This is confusing for me and many other electors, if the municipality has to end up expropriating or buying back that land.

3. Of course, I absolutely agree. Partnerships promote collaboration among these three organizations, which in all honesty makes complete sense for the future of lake health. The improvement of these management operations will only better the continued research and review of the flow-through lakes and connecting bodies of water.

a) I believe the recreational use of the reservoir lakes is important to the success of our County and ultimately, our municipality. It will be interesting to see what the consultant reports suggest when it

comes to drawing down the lake levels in the Fall. If, which many suspect they will, they recommend doing this method, that may mean a great flow through the system in the Spring and continued detriment to the Township of Minden Hills. I also suggest lake property owners to think about shoreline naturalization or re-naturalization.

b) Most definitely. Environment Haliburton! recently hosted a scientist from the MNRF who discussed lake health and the effects of climate change on various types of fish species in our local lakes. I would support the acquisition of lake specific data re: location and depth of trout spawning beds and therefore, protecting and improving the habitat in the surrounding areas. And even though I certainly recognize that while this is largely the purview of the province, the municipality should support the facilitation of and documentation of this research. I would continue to support the long history of community-based research in this area in conjunction with Trent University.

Pam Sayne, Councillor, Ward 2

1. Yes. I strongly support the work of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) volunteers and the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). Your scientific approach contributing to our strategies, both short and long term, to deal with radically changing weather conditions and water flows continue to be our first source of knowledge. This is important to manage water flows and predict potentially disastrous conditions. As Councillor for Ward 2, I plan to propose a reporting structure for Minden Hills Council, so that information from the CEWF and UTWMP meetings are formally reported at Council meetings, becoming part of the public record, and Councillor's collective knowledge.

2. The issues are only getting more and more critical each year. We must be much more proactive and forward thinking to be able to mitigate the "perfect storms" that potentially could cause another disaster to private properties and our municipal and county infrastructure. As your Councilor, I initiated the formation of the Minden Hills' Climate Change Action Committee. Our Committee is pushing for better coordinated efforts between the other Municipalities, the County, Provincial government and its mandated organizations. Water levels affect us all on a regional level and require regional coordination and input.

With a Climate Change Action Committee member, I attended presentations in the Muskoka area to learn how they are successfully addressing the increased water concerns through good planning and engineering. We have a great deal to learn from their experience. Environment Haliburton was instrumental in bringing speakers from this area to talk to our community on the experience of the Muskoka watershed planning. We need to learn quickly from other communities and become more progressive in our engineered planning for quickly changing water levels and climate.

The Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP), initiated thanks to the scientific work and political tenacity of CEWF members, plays a critical role for our region. This work, presenting local scientific monitoring and input, promotes a strong base to apply political pressure to better regulate the flows of water through our area. This is vital as our first line of defense. This provides the basis for our input addressing antiquated provincial regulations and managing our environment as we respond to changing water levels, and the increasingly radical weather conditions created by climate change. I became familiar with the work of the CEWF eight years ago, and continue to be a strong supporter.

As we do not have a regional water management system, the UTWMP and the CEWF are necessary. UTWMP is critical to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and connecting rivers in the County. Our municipality must be fully engaged in working on these issues at all levels.

I was part of a multi-level municipal delegation to the Minister at the 2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference, where we requested support for these pressing issues in our community. We were met with favorable views from the Province. This project continues through the County initiatives.

We continue to work towards improved flood plain mapping, working towards the needed Provincial support to initiate LiDAR mapping. This will inform our official plans, future development and infrastructure needs to address flooding concerns. Flood mitigation planning is critical and the municipality is following a plan to limit problems as recommended in reports of previous floods. Much of this work addresses infrastructure for Minden's downtown area, lakes and waterways and roadways. It also includes financial reserves for potential problems.

3. Yes. Municipal governments must work with local lake associations, the TSW and MNR to improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and connecting rivers. We must encourage water conservation – and protection – to support not only the recreational use of the reservoir lakes, but their environmental integrity as well. The acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat is definitely a very important part of the overall “healthy lakes” equation.

We need to work together. We cannot solely depend on provincial support or direction. We need to find made-at-home scientifically-based solutions. Our climate is changing. Our practices and regulations need to change so we can mitigate harm and sensibly plan to eliminate future risks in private and public investments.

Residents and visitors need to be informed how their waterfront behavior affects all of us; they need to know, for example, the expected risks of building within shoreline allowances as water levels fluctuate. Municipalities need to work closely with the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owner Associations, who does an exemplary job of working with lakefront property owners.

“We Need to do Better Together” is not just my campaign slogan. The work of CEWF and UTWMP, along with the initiatives of CHA, is a case in point for our Municipal Council: we do – do better together!

Jean Neville, Councillor, Ward 3

I agree with all of the issues sent as questions.

The CEWF has done amazing work since its inception. Your dedication and expertise are superior.

Municipalities definitely should take an active role. How this would look within the municipal system should be considered. Since councils change every 4 years and CEWF has the knowledge and history, should council have your member as a regular liaison to council instead of the other way around? In my way of thinking it would make more sense for presenting a stronger position.

North Kawartha

Carolyn Amyotte, Mayor

1. I do agree that municipalities have a role to play in the water management of our region. North Kawartha is home to both reservoir lakes and canal lakes and the Eels Creek watershed flows throughout our entire township. We are greatly impacted by the TSW activities with regards to dam operations and water management decisions. As the current NK rep on UTWMP, I wholeheartedly support continued municipal representation and support for this most worthwhile group.

2. There is no mapping and/or flood mitigation planning for our Eels Creek watershed or the Jack's Creek watershed. It has been a goal of mine to have these initiatives completed for a number of years. I am hopeful that through our involvement with UTWMP we may be able to partner with other members and/or access funding that would allow us to complete these studies.

3. a) Yes. b) Yes. I have lived on Eels Lake for over 20 years and have been very vocal about having input into the water management activities on our lake. There are so many stakeholders that are affected by the TSW operations and it is vital that they all have voice at the table. By working together and sharing data and information we will have a much more integrated and responsible approach to watershed management.

As someone who has advocated strongly for the creation of a group like UTWMP I am so pleased that this partnership has become a reality. I look forward to continued collaboration with you.

Jim Whelan, Deputy Mayor

1. I was Mayor in North Kawartha when you originally organized and I had the Township join and was also on the Anstruther Lake Board and we joined. Yes, we should be involved.

2. I have never been involved in anything to do with flood plain so would have to study how and where it could be of benefit to our Township. I know it is a major problem in some areas you cover but will mapping be beneficial?

3. Are you suggesting that there is a better agency to handle water flow than the Trent Severn? They have to relieve the water levels in Spring without knowing what the summer season will bring (wet or dry). Then they must make sure the generating stations have enough water to ensure that the hydro generating plants have an adequate supply of water, and secondly tourist trade on the waterway. Who are you suggesting that could handle a very complex situation better than the agency in place?

Jim O'Shea, Councillor, Ward 1, Acclaimed

1. Your concerns are much the same as any lake resident, permanent or seasonal. Yes, where municipal support can be given, I will support the Coalition.

2. Regarding flood control and mitigation provisions, and that such is within the municipality's control, I will support including in the Official Plan the strengthening of flood control language to ensure that the affected lakes have appropriate input.

3. Yes, municipalities and lake associations should work together with the TSW/MNRF to improve water management operations, recreational use, and the fisheries, on the reservoir and flow-through lakes.

Colin McLellan, Councillor, Ward 2

1. Yes. Any time multiple levels of government are involved in related projects the most localized government needs to try and take lead for organization. In this case that would be town and county council.

In regards to water level management I feel most of the responsibility is split amongst the federal and municipal governments. Historically the two levels of government have not been the greatest

communicators. While the onus is not any individual level of government, I would like to see the municipal governments take lead with localized information.

The budgetary responsibility must be shared though. Townships must have prepared all of the appropriate environmental protection and disaster mitigation studies in advance of their necessity. I would much rather see preventive maintenance than reactionary repairs. We cannot expect the federal government to know what portions of the waterway are the most important to protect or maintain. If we are not active participants in the process, I am concerned we will be left with a “why spend money there, look over there that’s way worse” dialogue which is beyond frustrating. Governments can use their buying power to help its citizens transition to a lower flow lifestyle. I would also support having the municipal government participate in buy-back projects similar to the LED bulb rebate offered by other levels of government.

To keep part two short, yes - municipal governments should continue to support the Upper Trent Waterway Management Program.

2. As mentioned, before I am a fan of preventive maintenance to avoid costly urgent repairs. Flood plain mapping and mitigation protocol development are two very important tools for a township. This is contingent on the information being accurate and current. While these reports help address the root of the problem, situations arise that are simply beyond our control. As our climate changes our governments need to as well. Larger more sporadic storms are expected to be the new norm.

Many of the townships involved with the Upper Trent Waterway Management Program are large with uninhabited lands, North Kawartha included. I would be supportive of the township updating mapping and developing mitigation strategies in selected, sensitive areas. Priority should be placed on personal safety and protecting expensive or essential infrastructure. Once those are adequately managed then governments should concern itself with recreational use.

3. Municipalities should absolutely co-operate with local lake associations and interest groups such as yourselves. As stated before, I support the municipality taking lead amongst the three levels of government as they have the most localized information. The only way council actually gets this information is by actively communicating and learning from any group or individual with interest in the project.

Water conservation is something worth co-operating on. In the long run it is a environmental and financial win-win. Local governments must also do all they can to have the federal government upgrade their locks. While I do think it is important to highlight and protect the heritage of our lock systems the cumulative losses from the leaks between the Upper Trent Waterway and Lake Ontario are not insubstantial and must be dealt with.

I would prefer to see the MNR and provincial government take lead with the trout spawning studies. Trout are found throughout our province and consistency in scientific studies is important. My chief concern is simply miscommunication. Patchy, incomplete, inconsistent studies are almost as dangerous as they useful.

Trent Lakes

Janet Clarkson, Mayor

I believe in conservation of all water. I have been aware of this problem for many years and will certainly work with your association to advance our involvement. One of the problems as I see it, is the lack of quick responses to extreme weather where valuable water could be saved if the ability to adjust dams was much quicker. In my youth locals could do that. I know that is not possible now but some balance should be struck to ensure that timely response is possible. The co-operation between the Trent canal and the feeder lakes needs to be better communicated to all concerned. I pushed the eastern wardens caucus to adopt the Trent Canal as one of their initiatives when I was at county council. This needs to be expanded to encompass the area as a whole instead of two separate entities. Municipalities have only the power to try to influence decision makers and we need to liaison much better with your coalition. And others.

Ron Windover, Deputy Mayor

1. I completely agree that the Municipalities have a role to play in improving water management in the Trent River Watershed which is why I personally supported the Municipality of Trent Lakes (MTL) becoming a member of the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). As Deputy Mayor, I am aware that many of our tax paying residents have waterfront properties on the reservoir lakes. With the impact of climate change and the increasing rate of more extreme weather patterns and events, water management is critical to protecting the safety of our homes and properties, protecting the environment, and ensuring on-going safe recreational water use by our constituents. I applaud the CEWF for their efforts in establishing UTWMP and the importance of having these Municipalities working collaboratively with the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW), Parks Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) with an objective of improved water management planning, strategies and measures.

2. With a new CAO coming on board and upcoming work on the MTL Official Plan scheduled, we have a unique opportunity scheduled to leverage the UTWMP to ensure that we evaluate and study the inclusion of flood mitigation planning and flood plain mapping as part of this work. It is very important to me and our Municipality to ensure that those residents on the reservoir lakes are confident that we have undertaken an assessment of all the risks and developed counter measures and plans to prevent property and environmental damage caused by flooding.

3. I have personally supported and pushed for an increase in communications and interaction with local lake, cottage, road and ratepayer organizations by MTL staff and council. By having better communications from our residents, especially those on the reservoir lakes, we have more information that we can share with the TSW and the MNRF to improve water management in conjunction with the efforts of the CEWF. Better water management is important in two scenarios:

- a) Reduce the risk of flooding on the reservoir lakes which can cause shoreline property and environmental damage,
- b) Reduce the impact of drastic water level changes which can impact recreational use and can also have a detrimental affect to wildlife and fish habitat such as loon nesting and trout spawning areas.

Kim Letto, Councillor, Harvey Ward

1. I do believe that the municipalities have a role and responsibility to share in the local water management partnership. As a candidate running for Harvey Ward my area of representation is on the southern end of this map but it greatly affects my immediate area as the destination for the affected lakes. I look forward to being an active participant in any area that requires my wards' input and cooperation.
2. I believe that current and ongoing flood plan mapping and flood mitigation and environmental studies are relevant and essential given the climate concerns in the current state.
3. I believe that education and communication to property owners and users is essential in water conservation plans to ensure their awareness and engagement. I believe the collection and analysis of area specific water/lake data and statistics is essential to help identify threats and areas of concerns to be proactive in preservation.

Carol Armstrong, Councillor, Galway-Cavendish Ward

First of all, kudos to the CEWF for reaching out to council candidates in the seven municipalities that are state as part of the upper Trent watershed area. CEWF has done important and valuable work in bringing together the Federal, Provincial and County/Municipal government bodies that have responsibility for one or more aspects of this large watershed area. Water conservation and management, especially in this time of accelerated climate change, is critical for economic, environmental and social reasons. It is to CEWF's enormous credit that they have brought together a team of Executives with extensive expertise, commitment and energy. That they operate on an annual budget of less than \$3,000 and have built up a reserve of \$13,000 is a model for all not for profits.

Question 1: I am encouraged that the Municipality of Trent Lakes signed on to the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership in 2016, along with 5 other neighboring Municipalities. The Municipality has had a designated representative assigned to this group, and I will support continued active representation and support. The Municipality has ongoing responsibility for local infrastructure that is impacted by severe weather events (flooding, water levels, etc.) and can only do so effectively if it works closely with other Municipalities along the Trent Severn waterway.

Question 2: The Trent Lakes Official Plan was last updated in 2013 and is currently undergoing its 5-year review. The current Official Plan (OP) does state an objective to identify the floodplain areas within the Township and to control development to minimize the risk to life and property in the event of a flood. And, OP appendices show a few flood sensitive areas. All of this is largely, however, related to new developments. Based on the recent major flooding incidents that have occurred in Haliburton, our neighbor to the North, it would seem advisable for Trent Lakes to do more in this area to mitigate against or to be prepared for flooding incidents. Budget permitting, I would support prioritizing additional mapping efforts and mitigation planning.

Question 3: There is no question that Trent Lakes needs to work closely with local Lake Associations, Trent Severn Waterway and MNRF to ensure continued effective water management of Trent Severn lakes and rivers. There are many of these Trent Severn connected lakes and rivers in our Municipality. I have attended several public forums where water levels and fluctuations on these lakes have been called out as a major concern and source of frustration for property owners. The Trent watershed is a large, very complex system of lakes, rivers, canals, locks and dams. Many stakeholder groups are affected and their (sometimes conflicting) needs

must be understood, balanced and addressed. Decisions made on water management, future land use and development, and infrastructure will impact (among others) waterfront property owners, tour operators, fish habitats, recreational boaters, water ecosystems, tourists, and water supplies. The Municipality has a role to play in this and should continue to leverage and support existing partnerships

Terry Lambshead, Councillor at Large

1 I absolutely agree that Trent Lakes has an important role to play in continuing to support all water management issues that affect all water flows within our Municipality and the surrounding areas.

2. I have always felt that flood plain mapping and flood mitigation should be something Trent Lakes has a plan for that could be part of our Official Plan and we should be working closely with all similar organizations as CEWF to get accurate and current information.

3. Water conservation by the TSW in our lakes seems to be a very sensible attempt to keep water levels in the reservoir lakes at a reasonable level throughout the heavily used recreational times. Some maximum and minimum flows should be established for the connection rivers to maintain fish and birds' habitats. This is so very critical during fish spawning and egg laying and hatch times for the birds. Frog egg laying and hatching should also be considered with the river flow rate. This can only be accomplished if Trent lakes and all levels of Government work with the lake and river associations as a united Voice