

TO: All Municipal Clerks/Chief Administrative Officers  
MVCA Watershed

July 23, 2021

## **BOARD SUMMARY, July 2021**

As a member of the Authority, please find below highlights from the July 21, 2021 meeting of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors for distribution to Council. Complete minutes for the meeting will be circulated following their approval by the Board at the next meeting.

### **Watershed Condition Report**

- Rainfall over the past few weeks has alleviated some pressure on the system, we are hopeful current conditions will be sustained through August.
- Majority of flows in the river and its tributaries have increased, recent rains have also increased lake levels in the upper watershed.
- More rain is needed to get the system back to normal conditions.
- The Low Water, Level 1 declaration has been terminated.

### **Draft Mississippi River Watershed Plan**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors approve the Mississippi River Watershed Plan as amended.

- Very few comments were received during the final round of consultations, likely due to the extensive consultations and revisions earlier on in the process. Of note, one action was added that allowed for clarification between Communications, Stewardship and Education programs and services.
- Updates for the Board on the Indigenous Engagement Plan will resume in the future when in-person meetings and relationship building becomes possible.
- Following approval of the Plan, staff will begin to prioritize the development of the 2022 budget and negotiation of municipal MOU in 2022.

### **Results of the RFQ for Boardroom A/V Upgrades**

**Recommendation:** That the Board approve up to \$10,000 for upgrade of boardroom equipment to facilitate the blending of remote and on-site meeting participation, to be paid from the Operating Reserve.

- Main constraint at present is the inability to provide quality sound for all participants, and to blend and record different audio sources without feedback and echo. There is also no video camera in the boardroom which makes chairing a meeting difficult.
- A/V equipment was last installed over the period of 2013-16.
- Four firms were contacted for the RFQ, three responded but only one of the three submitted a complete response. Upon contact with the vendor, questions were raised and staff were not prepared to proceed with the bid.
- Plan B is as follows: everyone participates using Zoom, in-boardroom discussions are captured using existing audio system and mobile mics, and the boardroom computer would be used to run the Zoom meeting and integrate sound from the boardroom audio system.
- Staff will further investigate the viability of plan B and if it will fit within the \$10,000 budget.

### **Meeting Remotely Report**

**Recommendations:** That the Policy & Priorities Committee recommend that the Board approve amendment of the *MVCA Administrative By-law* as set out in this report, as amended, that will allow Board members to participate in meetings electronically outside of a State of Emergency