
Spring Freshet 2016 – MNRF Proactive Teleconference #5 April 5, 2016 - 2:30pm

MNRF Update: Christina Davis

1. MNRF Current Situation:
 - Balaclava Dam & Lake Dore Dam: water level very high both above and below the dam; no operations this week; if we get significant rainfall there will be flooding; water has been level since yesterday because of the cold weather; hoping to pass enough water in this cold weather to avoid flooding
 - Rivers and lakes: large lakes still ice covered; rivers are full, open and flowing well
 - Fraser Township snow station: the snow levels have decreased by about 10cm and are currently at 36.4cm
 - Snow levels: fields are bare, still snow in the bush; not much change from last week
 - Other Observations: creeks are full and flowing well
2. Pembroke District Flood Status: A Flood Warning was issued for the Bonnechere River below the Town of Renfrew to the Ottawa River and a Flood Watch for Round Lake, Golden Lake and the remainder of Renfrew County on April 1, 2016.
3. Neighbouring District Status:
 - North Bay: issued a flood watch for the southern part of the district on March 31st
 - Bancroft: issued a flood warning on April 4th
 - Kemptville: issued a flood outlook on April 1st

Surface Water Monitoring Centre Weather Forecast: Brent Smith

- A system bringing 20-25cm of snow is moving into the area tomorrow
- Thursday is forecast to bring temperatures above zero with 5mm of rain/snow mix
- Friday and Saturday the temperatures will drop to below zero with a chance of around 2cm of snow

Madawaska Update: Don Ferko, OPG (update received after the call)

- Bark Lake
 - rising up to 30 cm per day, need to slow down the refill to ~5cm per day by the end of the week
 - expecting to increase flow out of Bark Lake but expecting to avoid going over the operating maximum at Barry's Bay
- Palmer Dam
 - doubling of inflows occurred over the past weekend (Thursday to Sunday), inflows stayed high despite cold weather
 - removed the final logs from both branches of the Palmer Dam to control the levels in Kamaniskeg Lake which resulted in a flow increase from 310 to 370 cubic metres per second on April 5

- Kamaniskeg Lake
 - within 14 cm of the operating maximum
 - if precipitation over the next few days is snow not anticipating any problems, if a lot of rain then lake will most likely exceed the operating level
- Flows are high along the rest of the Madawaska (OPG portion) but levels are manageable
- Very little storage space left at most OPG facilities

Ottawa River Update: Michael Sarich, ORRS

- Ottawa River peaked over the weekend in the middle part of the basin
- Levels in the lower basin and tributaries are receding with the cooler temperatures
- In the north there are still strong flows and reservoirs are above normal; trying to get water out of the north part of the river

Bonnechere River Update

1. Round Lake & Golden Lake: Shawn Cameron, RPG
 - At Round Lake the levels increased last week, the cold weather has slowed the rise rates
 - Lake Clear exceeded its limits last week
 - Golden Lake water level is high but water is not up on properties yet
 - At the Renfrew Upper Dam there has been a decline in flows; putting in logs to keep water levels up
2. Eganville: Jack Roesner, Eganville Generation Corp.
 - Water levels have levelled off over the past 2 days and haven't had to adjust the level of the gate
 - Seeing constant water levels which are manageable
3. Douglas: Janusz Rydel, Multistream Power Corp.
 - No update

Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management: Philippe Geoffrion

- No update

County of Renfrew: Mike Pinet/Steve Osipenko

- Everything is stable, no issues
- Flew the Bonnechere River below Renfrew with the drone this morning and noted that water levels are higher now above the restriction than they were before the bank slump

City of Pembroke: Doug Sitland

- Indian River: has gone down ~3'
- Muskrat River: flow is still high but stabilized
- Flows at the waste water pumping station have subsided

Other Townships/Municipalities or others:

- Greg Lough, Township of McNab/Braeside: would like an update on the Madawaska River (note: OPG was not available for the call but was contacted for an update after, see above)

- Michelle Mantifel, Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan:
 - The Madawaska River has risen even with the cold weather
 - There are a few roads in the township that are close to flooding
 - Water is up at the Palmer Rapids bridge
 - Would like to know the outlook for Bark Lake and Kamaniskeg Lake

Questions/Information Requests:

- None

Update Pembroke District Flood Status

- Considering either a Flood Watch for the entire district or a Flood Warning for the Bonnechere River and a Flood Watch for the remainder of the district.
- OPG suggested Flood Warning for the Madawaska River downstream of the Palmer Rapids dam
- A new bulletin will be issued on April 6th in the morning

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 1:30pm or a call might be added on Friday, April 8th if there are concerns after the precipitation later this week.

Teleconference 1-866-602-5423; passcode 6553803#

Key Information Websites:

<http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry> - MNRF Website

<http://www.ottawariver.ca/> (or call the 24hr toll free number 1-800-778-1246)

<http://www.opg.com> – Madawaska River/Ottawa River

<http://www.renfrewpg.ca> – Bonnechere River

<http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/home.html> - Emergency Management Ontario