



June 22, 2023

Ms. Lisa Marshall, P. Eng.

Project Manager

McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd.

115 Walgreen Road, R.R.3

Carp, Ontario

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Re: Kashwakamak Lake Dam Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Marshall,

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) is conducting a Class Environment Assessment (EA) of the future of the Kashwakamak Lake Dam to determine whether to “decommission, rehabilitate or replace” the existing dam within the next five years. I am writing as President of the Kashwakamak Lake Association (KLA) in response to the call by the MVCA for initial comments on the planning and design of this EA.

The KLA directly represents 367 properties on Kashwakamak Lake and is vitally interested in this study. Specifically, we have three priorities: (1) ensuring that the high-water level continues to be maintained for the recreational and transportation use of residents and businesses on the lake; (2) ensuring that the work process is managed in such a way as to minimize disruption to the lake’s property owners; and (3) ensuring that the concerns of the members of our association and the broader lake community are communicated to the MVCA. These are discussed in more detail below.

Maintaining the High-Water Level of the Lake

The current high-water level on Kashwakamak Lake was established over 100 years ago when the original dam at the eastern end of the lake was rebuilt. This dam maintains the high-water “recreational” level from the May long weekend to October, making small adjustments as needed. The dam also allows the water level to be lowered by approximately 4 to 6 feet in late October and raised again in mid-April to provide the capacity to minimize spring flooding downstream.

Over the past century, residents and businesses on the lake have invested in the construction of residences, docks, water access routes and commercial opportunities based on the current high-water level. As a result, any material change in this high-water level would cause a great deal of hardship and material financial harm to these residents and businesses. Property owners abutting areas of the lake which flooded when the dam was originally built would be particularly affected by any substantial lowering of the lake since they would lose direct access to navigable water. The KLA believes that the dam is essential for maintaining the current high-water “recreational” level and therefore submits that the option of decommissioning the dam is not feasible.

Minimizing Disruption during the Refurbishing or Rebuilding Process

Whether it is decided to rehabilitate or replace the dam, it is crucial that the work process be conducted in a way that minimizes disruption to lake residents and businesses who rely on the high-water level for boat access during the recreational season.

It is therefore preferable that work be conducted during the low water period from late October to mid April. If it is necessary to extend the low water period to permit work later in the spring or earlier in the fall, it is absolutely crucial that timely notice be provided.

Participation in the Environmental Assessment

The MVCA has already reached out to the KLA by sending us its Notice of Intent dated June 1, 2023. This has been posted on the KLA's web site, emailed to our members and, discussed at a recent board meeting. This Notice and the KLA's initial response will also be discussed at the KLA's upcoming Annual General Meeting on July 8.

The KLA has also posted this Notice on its Facebook Site which reaches over 3018 people. Many are cottagers and permanent lake residents, local residents, local contractors and business owners in the area, visitors and family members of owners on the lake.

The KLA understands that the MVCA's call for submission by June 23, 2023 is only the first of a number of planned opportunities to comment on this EA. The KLA requests that it continue to receive further notices and reports on the study as it proceeds, as well as any other related information prepared by the MVCA. These should be directed to the following directors of the KLA: Sue MacGregor, President, president@kashwakamak.ca ; Kim Howson, Secretary, secretary@kashwakamak.ca ; Alan Dean, director, directoralan@kashwakamak.ca ; and Peter Johnson, Lake Steward, lakesteward@kashwakamak.ca . The KLA will continue to share and post these notices and also seek to identify other interested lake residents wishing to receive direct communications on this study.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the high importance of this project to the Kashwakamak Lake community and emphasize the KLA's willingness to participate as fully as possible with the MVCA and its consultants, McIntosh Perry.

Yours sincerely,



Sue MacGregor

President

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