

Sturgeon/Nipissing/French Committee
Freshet Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2024
11:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Attendance: MNRF (North Bay District, Surface Water Monitoring Centre (SWMC)), North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA), West Nipissing Power Generation, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Municipality of French River, Nipissing Township, Nipissing First Nation, Municipality of West Nipissing, Municipality of St. Charles, Emergency Management Ontario

Minutes

1) Weather Update/Freshet Forecast (MNRF – SWMC Duty Officer)

- Day 1 (Friday) – 5-10mm of rain, temperatures getting colder starting today, 0-5°C overnight.
- Day 2 (Sat) – 5mm rain, 5-10°C daytime temperatures.
- Day 3 (Sun) – None to minimal rain.
- Day 4 (Mon) – No rain, high pressure system arrives bringing clear skies and cooler daytime and nighttime temperatures.
- Day 5 (Tues) – 15-20mm of rain, new system forecast for the watershed, might bring some snow to the northern reaches.

2) OPG Northeast: Lake Temagami Flood Allowance (see presentation for details)

- OPG notified MNRF on April 18 that they'd be utilizing Lake Temagami's flood allowance. MNRF acknowledged OPG's notification on April 19. Utilizing the flood allowance is needed due to:
 - high inflows and restricted outflows out of Lake Temagami; and
 - to lesson flooding impacts downstream.
- The current level for Lake Temagami is 293.98m which is two cm from the top of the normal operating range and two cm from the start of the flood allowance.
 - Lake Temagami flood allowance = 294.00m to 294.20m.
- From April 11 to 13, 50mm of rain fell in the lower part of the Sturgeon River watershed and 80-100mm of rain fell in the Red Cedar area.
 - Normal inflows on Lake Temagami at this time of year are approximately 75cms. On April 13 inflows were 375cms.
- Current inflows on Lake Temagami are 150cms and current discharge is around 65cms which is as high as possible given the natural restriction between the lake and Cross Lake Dam.

- The build rate on the lake is currently 26cm which results in about 1cm per day of rise in water levels.
 - Lake Nipissing's build rate is 100cm = 1cm increase per day.
- Lake Temagami is forecast to rise 1.5-2cm/day pending current rainfall. Likely to move into the flood allowance by mid-week if inflows hold at current levels.
- OPG has communicated utilizing the flood allowance with Temagami First Nation and the Municipality of Temagami.
- River data can be found online at: [Hydroelectric power | Water system data portal – OPG](#)

5) Adjourn and Next Call (MNR)

- A call will be scheduled for the week of April 22.
 - If not needed, will be cancelled.