

Report to Infrastructure and Corporate Services Committee

To: Chair and Members
Infrastructure and Corporate Services Committee

From: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC
Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure

Subject: Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London Flood Protection Projects

Date: March 23, 2026

Recommendation

That on the recommendation of Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the appointment of Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the following projects:

- (a) The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority **BE AUTHORIZED** to carry out the following flood protection projects with the City share in the total amount of \$4,668,918, including contingency, excluding HST; noting the requirements of provincial funding program are unique, in that only conservation authorities can apply, requiring application of Section 13.3(iii)(d) of the Procurement of Goods and Service Policy:
 - a. West London Dyke (Ph. 9-13) Reconstruction;
 - b. West London Dyke (Ph. 9-13) added Contract Administration and Design Fees (PO 223637);
 - c. West London Dyke Vegetation Removal; and
 - d. Fanshawe Dam Repairs, Installation and Construction.
- (b) the financing for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Sources of Financing Report attached, hereto, as Appendix 'A';
- (c) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project;
- (d) the approval given, herein, **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract; and
- (e) the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any contract or other documents, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.

Executive Summary

This report seeks approval to commit the City's financial share for projects eligible for provincial capital funding through the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) program and federal capital funding through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), including the West London Dyke Reconstruction project and upgrades to the Fanshawe Dam.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This recommendation supports the following 2023-2027 Strategic Plan areas of focus:

- Climate Action and Sustainable Growth:
 - Waterways, wetlands, watersheds, and natural areas are protected and enhanced.
 - London is more resilient and better prepared for the impacts of a changing climate; and
 - Infrastructure is built, maintained, and secured to support future growth and protect the environment.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

Infrastructure and Corporate Services Committee – June 16, 2025 – Funding to Support UTRCA Capital/ Maintenance Projects

Civic Works Committee – July 16, 2024 – Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and West London Dyke Phases 9 through 13 Design

Civic Works Committee – June 13, 2023 - Funding to Support UTRCA Capital/Maintenance Projects and City Watercourse Monitoring Program

Civic Works Committee – March 29, 2022 – RFP21-07 West London Dyke Feasibility Study

Civic Works Committee – September 21, 2021 – Increase Contract Award: West London Dyke Norman Bradford (Oxford Street) Bridge Concrete Repairs

Civic Works Committee – August 31, 2021 – Increase Contract Award: West London Dyke Reapplication of Anti-Graffiti Coating to Phases 1 and 2

Civic Works Committee – November 17, 2020 – West London Dyke – Phase 7 and Fanshawe Dam Safety Study PO Boost

Civic Works Committee – July 14, 2020 – Upper Thames Conservation Authority and City of London Flood Protection Projects: West London Dyke Phase 7

Civic Works Committee – March 10, 2020 – Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London Flood Protection Projects

Civic Works Committee – August 12, 2019 – Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London Flood Protection Projects

Civic Works Committee – June 18, 2018 – Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London Flood Protection Projects

Civic Works Committee – July 17, 2017 – Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program: 2017 Provincially Approved Project Funding (Sole Sourced)

Civic Works Committee – August 22, 2016 – Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program: 2016 Provincially Approved Project Funding (Sole Sourced)

Civic Works Committee – February 2, 2016 – West London Dyke Master Repair Plan Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – January 28, 2016 – Downtown Infrastructure Planning and Coordination

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 West London Dyke Reconstruction Discussion

The City of London owns flood and erosion control structures that are maintained by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU defines a collaborative approach to operation and maintenance and capital improvements to the flood and erosion control structures in which the City and UTRCA share an interest.

Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program

The WECI program is a Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) capital cost share program that provides funding for flood or erosion control structures such as dams and dykes. This funding can only be accessed by Conservation Authorities (CAs), but can be used for infrastructure owned by municipalities in cases where the infrastructure is maintained by the CA. Over the past 18 years, in partnership with the UTRCA, approximately \$20,000,000 in WECI funding has been used to repair and reconstruct City-owned infrastructure.

WECI funding is provided through a prioritization process that includes existing flood and erosion control infrastructure. Projects are selected for funding by a committee made up of five CA representatives, one MNR representative, and one Conservation Ontario staff representative. There is one UTRCA staff member on this committee. The committee reviews and scores project submissions and determines the priority list of eligible projects on an annual basis.

The program is a 50/50 cost share with the local municipality or other contributors with flood or erosion control infrastructure needs and must have a Council resolution or legally binding agreement to demonstrate financial commitment. The UTRCA was successful in securing \$1,750,000 for the 2025/2026 construction years for the West London Dyke Reconstruction project.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)

The DMAF is a two-billion-dollar merit-based national program provided by Infrastructure Canada to support large scale infrastructure projects that reduce the risks of natural hazards. To be eligible, projects must have a minimum cost of \$20 million and must be able to be completed by 2027 – 2028. The level of cost sharing varies by the recipient. The UTRCA and City successfully applied to this program for Phases 5 through 13 of the West London Dyke. The federal government confirmed via a funding announcement on March 27th, 2019 to commit \$10 million of the project's estimated \$25 million-dollar total cost over the next ten years. For this project, the program funds up to 40% of the engineering design and construction costs up to the approved program total.

2.2 West London Dyke Project

Phase 9 to 13 is the final phase of upgrading the West London Dyke to further protect properties from riverine flooding and improve climate change resiliency to extreme rain events from the Forks of the Thames to Cavendish Park. The completion of this project will protect the homes in the Blackfriars and Cavendish neighbourhoods from Thames River flooding up to the 250-year event frequency and greater.

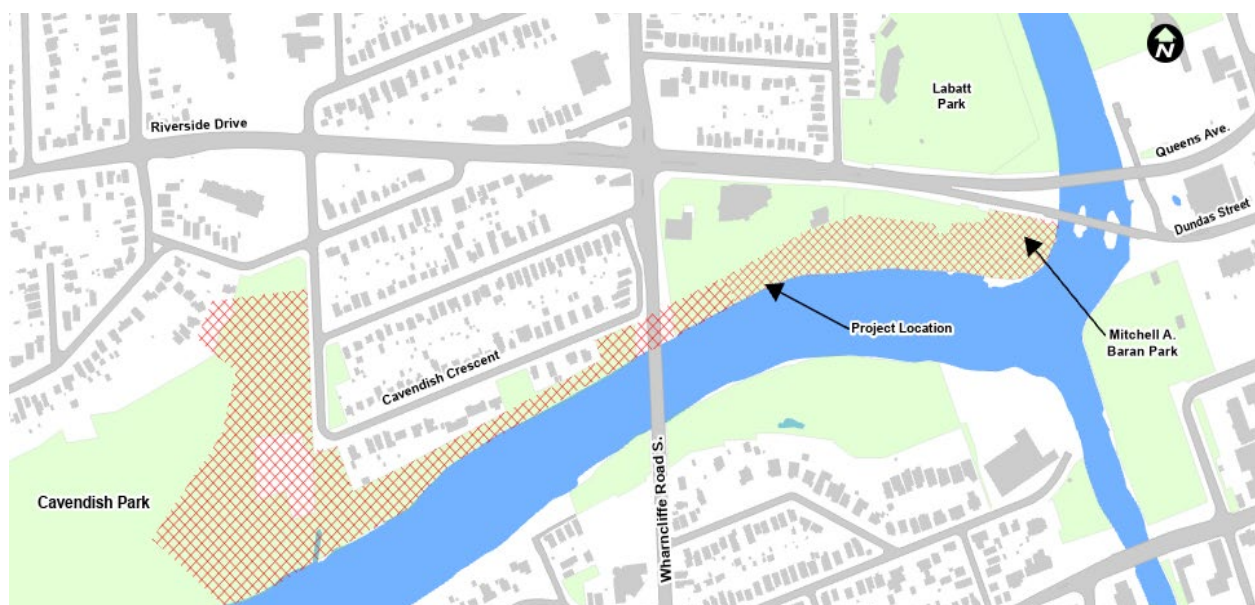


Figure 1: Project limits for Phases 9-13 of the West London Dyke Reconstruction

Public Engagement and Tree Removals

A Public Update Meeting was held on May 8th, 2025, at the Kinsmen Recreation Centre. The event was well attended by the public with representatives from UTRCA, the City of London and Stantec Consulting in attendance to provide project updates and answer questions from the community members. A Tree Removal and Pre-Construction Notice was also mailed to residents in the area on August 21st, 2025 advising that tree removals were scheduled to begin in September as part of preparations for the upcoming dyke construction. Ongoing project updates can be found on the Get Involved page: getinvolved.london.ca/westlondondyke.

Trees within the project area were inspected by a professional arborist from the project team to determine their health condition, review conflicts with construction and develop a tree protection plan. After careful assessment, it was determined that 273 trees were required to be removed for health reasons and/or due to construction conflicts. Removals began in September 2025 in advance of the dyke reconstruction work. Upon completion of the dyke work, the area will be restored with native species including 263 tree and 372 shrub and flower plantings.

Tender Process

UTRCA conducted an open tender process for this project with a low bid of \$13,675,415 including \$1,300,000 contingency, excluding HST, from Ro-Buck Contracting Limited. The project will be constructed over two years, with construction expected to be completed by fall 2027, with minor restoration works completed in the spring 2028.

UTRCA had retained Stantec Consulting Inc. (Stantec) to complete the detailed design and Construction Administration services a under previous approval; given added project scope including geotechnical challenges, pathway realignment constraints, Kiwanis parking lot redesign and resurfacing, storm sewer extension and Cavendish Works Yard fence realignment design, an additional \$66,731.00 excluding HST is required.

2.3 WECl Project Descriptions

UTRCA was successful in receiving funding to complete work on the Fanshawe Dam including a full sump pump repair and installation, safety sign installation, life ring installation, trash rack clearing and vegetation removal.

Additionally, UTRCA will be completing required vegetation removal around the upgraded sections of the West London Dyke. Vegetation overgrowth at the base of the dyke and along the top of the dyke can compromise the structure and undermine its integrity. Annual maintenance is required to minimize vegetation growth and to minimize root intrusion.

2.4 Funding Shares

A breakdown of cost splits for provincial, federal and City shares are summarized below in Table 1. The City pays approximately 33% of the total project cost.

Table 1: 2026 UTRCA Project Funding Sources

Project	Full Project Amount	DMAF Funding ¹	WECI Funding ¹	London Share ²
West London Dyke (Ph 9-13) Reconstruction	\$13,675,415	\$5,165,847	\$4,254,784	\$4,495,471
West London Dyke (Ph 9-13) – Added Consultant and Contract Administration Fees	\$66,731	\$26,692	\$20,019	\$21,194
Fanshawe Dam Upgrades	\$260,000	-	\$122,500	\$142,076
West London Dyke Vegetation Removal	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,176
Total	\$14,012,146	\$5,192,539	\$4,397,303	\$4,668,918

¹ The City portion is approximately 33% for this project due to additional DMAF share and WECI splits.

² The London Share is calculated by including the non-rebateable HST on the full project amount and then reduced by the provincial and federal funding programs.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

UTRCA will administer the West London Dyke project and submit invoices to the City as work is completed, after subtracting the provincial and federal funding share. The WECI program provides matched funding to CAs for the major reconstruction and maintenance of flood or erosion control structures that are either owned or maintained by CAs. Because of this requirement, the City must use Section 13.3(iii)(d) “statutory or market-based monopoly” of its Procurement Policy to engage in this project.

The Source of Financing is provided in Appendix ‘A’.

Conclusion

City and UTRCA staff will continue to work together to complete the proposed projects and endeavour to maximize the City of London’s potential to receive future provincial and federal support and funding for City-owned flood and erosion control infrastructure. Based on the review of the submitted work plans, it is recommended that retaining UTRCA is in the best financial and technical interests of the City.

Prepared by: Jeff Hachey, P.Eng., M.Sc.E., Division Manager, Stormwater Engineering
Submitted by: Ashley Rammeloo P.Eng., M.MSc., Director, Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater
Recommended by: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC, Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure

CC: Vakul Arora
 Angela Gilker
 Alan Dunbar
 Jason Davies
 Monica McVicar

Appendix ‘A’ – Sources of Financing

Appendix "A"

#26031

March 23, 2026

(Award Contract)

Chair and Members

Infrastructure and Corporate Services Committee

RE: Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and City of London Flood Protection Projects

(Subledger NT260001)

Capital Project ES2474 - UTRCA - Remediating Flood Control Works Within City Limits

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority \$4,422,304.00 (excluding HST and Contingency)

Finance Supports Report on the Sources of Financing:

Finance Supports confirms that the cost of this project can be accommodated within the financing available for it in the Capital Budget and that, subject to the approval of the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the detailed source of financing is:

Estimated Expenditures	Approved Budget	Committed To Date	This Submission	Balance for Future Work
Engineering	10,930,997	8,970,104	176,500	1,784,393
Construction	26,521,027	14,132,955	4,574,591	7,813,481
Land Purchase	24,607	24,607	0	0
City Related Expenses	112,061	112,061	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$37,588,692	\$23,239,727	\$4,751,091	\$9,597,874

Sources of Financing

Capital Sewer Rates	2,744,143	2,744,143	0	0
Debenture By-law No. W.-5610-251 (Note 1)	13,221,856	0	1,120,673	12,101,183
Drawdown from Sewage Works Renewal Reserve Fund	21,570,948	17,940,530	3,630,418	0
Other Contributions	51,745	51,745	0	0
Total Financing	\$37,588,692	\$20,736,418	\$4,751,091	\$12,101,183

Financial Note :

	Engineering	Construction	Total
Contract Price	167,520	4,254,784	4,422,304
Add: Contingency	5,927	240,687	246,614
Total Contract Excluding Taxes	173,447	4,495,471	4,668,918
Add: HST @13%	22,548	584,411	606,959
Total Contract Including Taxes	195,995	5,079,882	5,275,877
Less: HST Rebate	-19,495	-505,291	-524,786
Net Contract Price	\$176,500	\$4,574,591	\$4,751,091

Note 1: Administration hereby certifies that the estimated amounts payable in respect of this project does not exceed the annual financial debt and obligation limit for the Municipality from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in accordance with the provisions of Ontario Regulation 403/02 made under the Municipal Act.

Jason Davies

Manager, Financial Planning & Policy

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