

## **ESA Management Committee Meeting Minutes for September 10th, 2015**

### **Present**

City - Linda McDougall, James MacKay  
UTRCA - Alex Shivas, Cathy Quinlan, Christine Creighton  
ESA Team - Dan Jones, Brandon Williamson, Cole Volkaert, Kurtis Greb, Devon Hennessy,  
Richard Brewer, Brandon Pinter

### **Regrets**

City: Andrew Macpherson, Sara Rowland, Ivan Listar, Dianna Clark  
ESA Team: Annalise Castle, Cody Hildebrant

### **1) Welcome**

- Several of the new ESA Team staff have passed their Pesticide Applicator's License testing.

### **2) Minutes of Previous Meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

- No changes

### **3) Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) Conservation Master Plans and General Updates**

#### **3a. Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA**

- Revised Phase 1 CMP Report online, responses back to EEPAC on April 16, 2015
- Phase 1 CMP to Planning and Environment Committee January 2016 / Council
- Begin Phase 2 and Local Advisory Committee (LAC) to be formed in February 2016
- Invasive Species management and work to protect SAR continues in 2015; Poster of City/Dillon/UTRCA collaborative SAR protection / Invasive Management work to be presented at the Ontario Invasive Plant Council AGM Oct 13/14, 2015 at the RBG

#### **3b. Coves ESA**

- East Cove Pond invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle control, trail, boardwalk, canoe launch, signage, and lookout implementation in progress; naturalization work to continue in fall with UTRCA (Karen Pugh and Jay Ebel)
- Implementation Committee met May 6, 2015 and reviewed 2015 progress around East Pond
- \$45,000 EAP/NTC staff grant proposal successful for East Pond boardwalk, trails, restoration and canoe launch
- 15 ha added to UTRCA management contract in 2015; invasive species management in progress
- Major encroachment removed (sheds, open storage, etc.) near Springbank and East Pond
- Kiosk and other signage in progress

#### **3c. Meadowlily Woods ESA**

- Staff reviewing Phase 1 CMP, Natural Resource Solutions Inc. report
- Public Meeting for Phase 1 report estimated for 2016 with Secondary Plan
- Revised Phase 1 report based on comments to PEC/Council estimated 2016
- Begin Phase 2 and Local Advisory Committee estimated for 2016/2017

### **3d. Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA**

- Boardwalk near Worthington Ave replaced in July 2015 (Natural Area 1 Management Zone)
- TAG (Trails Advisory Group) walk September 10, 2015 at 5pm for Community Connections project
- Revised Vol. 1 and 2 Reports online and responses back to EEPAC's comments on April 16, 2015
- Invasive Species management in progress
- Applied for *Canada 150* federal grant for accessible trail (as per CMP). This could also include major invasive and restoration work for EAB in area near Saunders Cabin.

### **3e. Sifton Bog ESA**

- Trail review in 2015/2016 based on Management Zones (boardwalk near end of life)
- 80% of 2009 CMP recommendations underway or completed
- Sifton Bog Terrestrial study in progress by Stantec; MNRF confirmed presence of an endangered species in the ESA
- Invasive species management and tree planting in progress
- Hydrology study underway, expect report later in year
- Need for a sign at the pond platform regarding no feeding of wildlife and why

### **3f. Kains Woods ESA**

- City acquired the land to relocate trail at point 13 (west) for TAG solution, ESA Team implemented
- Bridge/boardwalk TAG solution not possible near Shore Road at point 16 (east)
- Barricades working in west end, need a few more blazes to direct hikers

### **3g. Warbler Woods ESA**

- Closure of four un-official trails/encroachments with wooden barricades will be done Sep/Oct 2015
- Invasive species management in progress
- Working with Sifton Properties to connect existing Level 1 trail to new Riverbend South community

### **3h. Kilally Meadows ESA**

- ESA Team is monitoring the beaver dam and water levels at the bridge at the Sweetbriar access; ; James McKay to re-visit; James has developed a wildlife management protocol to direct actions
- ESA team has installed many new signs for way finding on managed trails
- Invasive species management in progress and the Adopt-an-ESA Group (Friends of Kilally Meadows) is happy and engaged with hand pulling and disposal of Dog Strangling Vine seed pods.

### **3i. All ESAs – Invasive Species Management**

- Ivan Listar to initiate an Asian Longhorn Beetle strategy for ESAs. Beetle not present in ESAs yet but ESA team will keep an eye out for it. Ivan is developing a communication strategy and workshop for spring.

**4) ESA Team Operations Report**

- a) **Power Point (projects and activities March 2015 to present)** – See Attachment 1
- b) **Quarterly Report(s) discussed.** First 2 quarter reports given to Linda McDougall

**5) Other**

- a) **Brochure Update.** Dan Jones to initiate in fall, updating maps and facts. Cathy Quinlan and Eleanor Heagy to assist. QR codes on ESA signage and links may need updating/coordination.
- b) **Milkweed Seeds.** Reviewing potential for Adopt-an-ESA groups to distribute native Common Milkweed seeds from St. Williams Nursery in meadow areas in ESAs in fall 2015 for enhanced local Monarch habitat. Seeds can be planted any time this late summer/fall.
- c) **Adopt-an-ESA Recognition Pizza Party** to be held at German Canadian Club, Nov 4, 2015, 5-8 pm; Thom McClenaghan, FOTCSI, to speak; UTRCA staff to attend and potentially donate swag.
- d) **Launch a commemorative boardwalk donation program** on City website to be reviewed for 2016 to raise funds for ESAs. Cost is similar to a bench price point with donation amount of \$2,500.00 and options for lower price points.

In the past, Rotary Club London West donated time to organize collections and engraving and charged \$20 per board. ESA Team installed them in boardwalks approved under capital program.

New ideas welcome with meetings going forward. Suggest a plaque instead of engraving so boards don't rot so quickly. "In memory of..." is a popular theme. For tree planting, can erect one sign that has names that can be added to it over time like Memorial Tree Programs.

- e) **EAB Tree-azin for 2016.** Review number of trees and cost/benefit to ESAs. There are 145-160 trees that could be injected in 2016 as part of Phase 3 of the program (i.e., re-inject trees injected, bi-annually in past). Most trees are along trails or boundaries. Very few municipalities or CAs are injecting Ash trees in natural areas, and London is a leader in this. Half of these trees have been looked at to ensure they are still healthy enough to be in the program. Only 5-10 trees/day can be injected as uptake in natural areas/ESAs is slow compared to street trees. 6)

**Next Meeting** - December 2015

**Attachment 1**  
**Operations: ESA Team Power Point Presentation**  
(March to Sept 2015 Activities)

**Structures**

- Warbler -- in March a flooded boardwalk was repaired/anchored to ground (near Baseline Rd east)
- Meadowlily -- in spring, north trail bridge flooded and was repaired and preventative measures taken
- Westminster -- tree hit old boardwalk (#17) near Pond View Rd access; replaced with new narrow (22-24" wide) economical boardwalk in summer as this trail is not used as much as other trails
- Medway -- staircase inspected June 2015; removal planned in 2016; replace or trail realignment; High priority
- Sifton Bog -- boardwalk and platform needs removal/replacement in 2016

**Encroachment**

Coves – neighbor received letter to remove his structures; he removed items he wanted to keep and let ESA Team remove rest;

**Garbage**

- Kilally – ESA staff approached a homeless couple with drug problems living in a tent; Police were called to remove the couple; garbage and needles cleaned up; not near trails
- Coves - # syringes and needles found and cleaned up by staff; sharps box taken to London Cares
- Meadowlily – makeshift blind found and removed by staff; evidence of a compound bow being used on trees;
- Westminster – used clothing “donation” box left at one of the access parking lots; could not trace owner so removed
- Meadowlily and Medway – two forts removed
- A lot of the garbage/fort problem is located off-trail; takes time away time from other enforcement activities

**Invasive Species Management**

- Kilally -- Giant Hogweed foliar sprayed/injected; situation getting better; ESA Team took calls from the public this summer
- Westminster, Kilally, Kains, Meadowlily – Japanese Knotweed foliar sprayed or injected
- Westminster South Pond -- Phragmites trial: cut stems below water surface to drown the plant; done five times over summer; good success except at edge when lake dried up a bit so some Phrag exposed; a mechanical tool is used
- Westminster Fish and Game Pond on public land – cut only to prevent seed dispersal to keep at bay; time consuming
- Kains -- close to being relatively free of invasives; success story possible in 3 years

### Capital projects completed

Westminster -- Purple Loosestrife biocontrol: 10,000 *P. neogaleracella* larvae released June 2015 in Worthington area at cost of \$2k; expect pulses of Purple Loosestrife growth every few years according to Ontario expert at OIPC AGM.

- Sifton -- Buckthorn removal (basal bark herbicide and hand pulling) and tree planting (250 white pine) along boardwalk
- Kains -- 29 Blue Ash injected with treeazine; 6 injected in previous 2 cycles; 4 sticky traps installed for 8 weeks; still trying to confirm species and suggest ask Brent Sinclair prof at Western
- Kains -- trail realigned, baracades installed

### Capital projects in progress

- |                   |                         |  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| • Westminster     | Buckthorn               | 10% of project for 2015 done                 |
| • Medway          | Phragmites              | 70% of project for 2015 done; buckthorn soon |
| • Coves East Pond | Honeysuckle + Buckthorn | 80% done                                     |
| • Kilally         | Dog Strangling vine     | 10% of 2015 project done                     |
| • Warbler         | Buckthorn               | 80% of 2015 project done                     |
| • Warbler         | trail closures          | Oct scheduled                                |
| • Medway south    | Phragmites              | 70% of 2015 project done                     |
| • Medway          | Goutweed                | 80% of 2015 project done                     |

### Leverage funds

- Dillon consulting planted native trees at Westminster
- Rotary Club of London will plant native trees in fall at Westminster; donated \$1k
- Geocaching group did trail cleanup at Westminster (noting Geocaching is not permitted in ESAs)
- Medway Buckthorn busting volunteer event
- Other volunteer staff

### Coves

- Final updated map 15.66 ha to manage

### Violations

- Issues around difficulties with enforcement were discussed; cannot charge with Trespass Act and many citizens refuse to comply

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