

DELEGATION RECORD COMMENTS

19. Springbank Dam

- T. Brooke, Fisheries Biologist, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters – reiterating the comments as contained in his communication dated January 22, 2016; summarizing that the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters does not support the repair of the Springbank Dam.
- M. Alikakos, Consultation Coordinator, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN) - reiterating the comments as contained in her communication dated January 25, 2016.
- Dr. J. Pennycook. London Canoe Club - reiterating the comments as contained in the attached communication; describing herself as a policy wonk; stating that she has taught high school to graduate studies at the University of Western Ontario and holds a PhD in Education Policy and Education Leadership; also stating that when looking at the issue of the Springbank Dam she comes to that with a long career of working with children, studying education policy and how we get to this point and then turning those policy eyes on the policies that affect the Springbank Dam; and indicating that what bothers her is the fact that we are looking at a very small piece of a very large watershed.
- A. Valastro, 133 John Street – indicating that for most people it's a no brainer that you don't manipulate a river for recreational purposes such as rowing and canoeing because the impact on the river goes beyond that; indicating it's not artificial to be concerned about the banks of the river; suggesting that a lot of people see this as a political issue; stating that she is glad the report was deferred; requesting that this Committee and Council keep an open mind; commenting that this is a big issue and not just about pollution or canoeing or rowing, but really about ecological health; indicating that the public does engage in the river and that by her home hundreds of people go by the river on any given weekend; stating that she feels like the debate about the Springbank Dam is a political debate being driven by politics; suggesting that what really needs to be happening is it needs to be driven by ecological health because the river just runs through the city it doesn't belong to the city; indicating that she will do a broader presentation report at the March 8th public meeting based on the staff report; reiterating that most people see this as a political issue rather than preserving the ecological integrity of the river that belongs to many people.
- J. MacDonald, CEO and General Manager, Downtown London - reiterating the comments as contained in her communication dated January 28, 2016; prefacing by stating that they are not experts on rivers or the ecology or anything else to do with the science but that they are experts on Downtown London and revitalizing the Downtown; stating that they represent a lot of businesses and a growing number of Downtown residents; indicating that the river is the backyard for the Downtown residents and is certainly a draw for people to want to be here; expressing that it is a huge asset and that we have turned our back on it for long enough; reiterating that they are not an expert and stating that her organization would support an expanded Environmental Assessment (EA) that would provide all the facts including how the river, the dam and everything else that is examined affects the Back to the River project; commenting that this is very critical to the Downtown revitalization; stating that we know that Downtown is a high priority for the City; reiterating that the board and organization supports an expanded EA so that we can have all the facts and to provide an opportunity for everyone involved to speak their mind on this in order for Council to be able to make an informed decision; suggesting that to do nothing is not acceptable; stating that it has been proven in other cities that when you do something very positive and have an active river in your Downtown it is very good for the economy as well as the ecology; also stating that she hopes we can do it all and expand the EA to include the Springbank Dam so we can have an active river Downtown.