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January 28, 2016 SPPC



b) consideration of the key project planning directions and associated preliminary construction timelines for the following projects, as contained in the staff report dated January 28, 2016, BE REFERRED to the March 8, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee, for discussion and debate, in order to allow any parties who wish to have delegation status on these matters an opportunity to be heard:

- i) Back to the River “Ribbon of the Thames” concept plan*
- ii) Springbank Dam Replacement Gates*

Key project planning direction recommended – Comprehensive Master Plan Environmental Assessment





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February 2, 2016 CWC

Staff Report – Information on Springbank Dam

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Springbank Dam:

- a) delegation requests for the February 2, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee BE APPROVED;***

- b) a public participation meeting BE HELD at the Civic Works Committee meeting to be held on March 8, 2016, in order to hear further public input with respect to this matter; and,***

- c) the staff report dated February 2, 2016, BE REFERRED to the March 8, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee for consideration;***





This Presentation

- Springbank Dam Information (Feb 2 CWC)
- Environmental Assessments
- Basis for recommended EA Master Plan



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Springbank Dam

One of over 200 dams in the Upper Thames River

One of 10 recreation dams operated by UTRCA

Dam since 1870s – this structure since 1929

2003 EA for preferred debris passage ability

2006/7 construction -- 2008 gate failure

Litigation until late 2015 -- \$3.775 settlement



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Permits and Approvals

- **Federal – Department of Fisheries and Oceans**
 - Fisheries Act (fish passage study 2008 – 2010)
 - Species at Risk Act
 - **Province – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**
 - Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act
 - Endangered Species Act
- Now: Spiny Softshell Turtle, Queensnake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Salamander Mussel and Silver Shiner**



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Permits and Approvals

- **Province – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**
 - **Environmental Protection Act**
 - **Environmental Assessment Act**
 - completed 2003**

- **Province – UTRCA**
 - **Conservation Authorities Act**



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Physical Condition

- Gate 1 hinge failed
- July, 2015
 - Gates 2 & 4 operated with control
 - Gate 3 not lifted
- Mechanical device corrosion
- Control system redundant
- Concrete age





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Water Quality

- London and Upstream: 485,000 population; 3600 farms; 2000 livestock operations
- These are significant factors in Thames River water quality.
- Continuous improvement since before dam project and after – 11 of 16 MOECC criteria met
- Examples -- Phosphorus loading from London plants down -- E. Coli plant discharges less than river entering London.



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Environmental Assessment

- Mandated for certain types of projects
- Springbank Dam – for any activity other than repair
- BTTR – any of the concepts
- Any other project impacting the river environment
- Master Plan EA – collective impacts of a group of projects are assessed – not piecemeal



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Environmental Assessment

- Phase 1 – opportunity or problem
- Phase 2 – alternative solutions
- Phase 3 – alternative design concepts
- Phase 4 – report
- Phase 5 – execute (direction from EA on design and construction; approvals)

- Master Plan includes Phases 1 and 2
- Individual projects complete the process



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One River EA Master Plan

- Step back and set a plan for the river -- how will people interact with the river?
- No preconceived notions
- Consider implications of no plan:
 - Public safety
 - Managing natural environment (eg. SARS protection)
 - Investment objectives possibly not achieved and/or not sustainable
 - Agency approvals if piecemealed is questionable



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One River EA Master Plan

Recognize:

- Public safety (381,000 people / 1 river)
- Natural environment
- Urban environment
- Everyone and everything
- Why and how people interact with the river to view it, get next to it, boat on it, fish in it, appreciate it ...



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One River EA Master Plan

- Set direction for dam
- Set design criteria for BTTR
- Identify other activities / work consistent with the plan – sustainable in an urban setting
- Effort
 - Timeline up to 2 years depending on natural env. inventories (1-1/2 to 2 years for BTTR alone)
 - Funding available (subject to 2016 – 19 Budget approval)



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Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer the Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to develop a Terms of Reference and budget for a consultant assignment to complete a “One River” Master Plan Environmental Assessment Study that would encompass an area from the Springbank Dam to the Forks of the Thames and Harris Park.