

ESA Management Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14th, 2016
11 AM – 1:30 PM, UTRCA Boardroom

Present

City - Linda McDougall,
UTRCA - Alex Shivas, Cathy Quinlan, Christine Creighton
ESA Team - Dan Jones, Brandon Williamson, Cole Volkaert, Richard Brewer
ESA Summer Staff - Devon Hennessy, Nathan Schoelier, Duncan Thomson , Kaitlin Muma

Regrets

James McKay, Andrew Macpherson, Ivan Listar, Jackie Ramsay, Dianna Clark

- 1) **Welcome**
- 2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting, February 4th 16.** No changes
- 3) **Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) -- Conservation Master Plans and General Updates**

3a. Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (Southern Portion)

- Phase 2 on hold until 2017, after Planning & Design Standards for Trails in ESAs update complete in June 2016 (report going to the June 20 PEC meeting)
- Planning & Design Standards for Trails in ESAs will be available online soon
 - it exceeds ecological standards compared to other jurisdictions
- Invasive species work including work to protect Species at Risk continues in 2016
- Metamora staircase TAG solution now complete – restoration work by UTRCA in fall 2016

3b. The Coves ESA

- Trail work:
 - East Pond implementation and extensive restoration completed in 2015; local stakeholders very pleased
 - Elmwood Gateway, Silver Creek Ravine and Euston Meadows as per CMP and LIC on track for 2016 / 2017
 - Friends of the Coves have secured a Canada 150 Grant of \$42,000 and a Trillium Grant of \$150,000 for trail implementation as per CMP and LIC
- Kiosk signs are now in place at Elmwood Gateway and Springbank Drive
- Local Implementation Committee (LIC) met on May 18th, 2016.

3c. Meadowlily Woods ESA

- Phase 1 Conservation Master Plan by Natural Resource Solutions Inc. on hold until Planning & Design Standards for Trails in ESAs update complete in June 2016.
- Re-aligning a section of trail onto the adjoining farm field, work will include restoration with trees, shrubs and native seed by UTRCA.
- Phragmites management in 2016 by UTRCA

3d. Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA

- Community Connections from Parliament to Commissioners approved by TAG and Council, implementation, barriers, signage and planting is nearly complete.
- Canada 150 grant of \$100,000 awarded for boardwalks and trail improvements from tourism building and Dearness home to connect with Saunders Cabin site for 2017 implementation, consistent with the CMP.
- Restoration of the 3.5 ha wet area infested with Buckthorn and dead Ash near tourism building to begin in fall 2016.
- Phragmites, Buckthorn, Black Locust, Knotweed management in former landfill area in 2016 by UTRCA.
- Biannual Public Meeting Update on 29 September, 7 pm at Fish and Game Club, 790 Southdale Road; Steve Sauder of UTRCA coordinating

3e. Sifton Bog ESA

- Hydrology report on monitoring
- Trail review in 2016
 - existing boardwalk and platform repair/replacement to be reviewed with new Trail Standards.
- Sifton Bog Terrestrial Study

3f. Kains Woods ESA

- ESA team to continue implementing TAG recommendations for locations 1, 2 and 10.

3g. Warbler Woods ESA

- Working with Sifton to connect existing Level 1 trail to new Riverbend South community in 2017
- Boardwalk improvement in the south in 2016 by UTRCA
- Garlic Mustard pull by ESA Team completed this past spring

3h. Killaly Meadows ESA

- Beaver dam and water level monitoring at the bridge at the Sweetbriar access
- Friends of Killaly Meadows Adopt-an-ESA group here doing great job on DSV and Garlic Mustard pulling and bagging. Planting native seed and potted Milkweed plants provided by City is part of this restoration work. Event dates open to public include June 18, July 9, July 30 and August 20 from 10am until noon meeting at Access Point 8 near Edgevalley Drive Bridge.

3i All ESAs – Invasive Species Management

- Bi-annual TreeAzin injections for roughly 150 healthy ash trees will start next week
- City Wide Invasive Species Strategy by James McKay ongoing
- Living with Natural Areas brochures (developed by EEPAC) mailed to homes adjacent to ESAs in April 2016
- Monitor using EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) approach and touch ups of all 2014/2015 invasive work

4) ESA Team Operations Report

a) Power Point (Operations Jan – June 2016)

The ESA Team presented their activities and accomplishments since March 2016

b) Quarterly Report

January to March is done, on track with the next quarter, Alex to send to Linda

5) Other

a) ESA Brochure Updates – all are done except the Coves

b) Prescribed Burns

- Westminster Ponds ESA Prairie Plots - did not go ahead due to unfavourable weather and wind direction in April
 - may try again in the fall or likely next spring

b) Seed collection of ash injected with Treeazin (coordinate with Sara Rowland)

- the ESA Team will do seed forecasting next week

c) HSP Grant for Butternut work

- Brandon has not heard back yet from HSP, however, he will GPS the Butternut trees in the ESAs soon regardless of grant outcome
- The grant is to help fund sample collection to determine if they are native or hybrids, then determine next steps

e) The City of London won the Lee Symmes Municipal Award from Ontario Nature for its work on ESAs. Nature London nominated the City. This information will go to the public soon.

6) Next Meeting - September 28th, 2016 (tentative)