

From: McCloskey, Amanda (MNR)
Sent: September 23, 2011 10:27 AM
To: Cooper, Craig (MAH)
Cc: McCloskey, Amanda (MNR)
Subject: FW: Fanshawe ridge

Hi Craig,

MNR never provided a formal response to the comments provided to MNR by Aecom on the Fanshawe Ridge Phase 4, because the response dated March 25, 2011 stated that additional fieldwork would be required. MNR chose to wait until additional information provided prior to sending comments however as far as I can tell on this file, MNR never received any additional information as was suggested in the response provided by Aecom Project No: 60116410 (previously 102478) Regarding: Fanshawe Ridge Plan of Subdivision - Environmental Impact Study, Response to Comments Received from Parks Planning and Design, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (see attachment). The report specifically states:

3.6 MNR notes that Least Bittern were observed within 100m from the closest proposed rear lot line. MNR recommends additional information be provided on the Least Bittern location given the context of the site and species observation. The extent of significant habitat for the species should be identified and included in the EIS, as well as all associated avoidances/mitigation measures needed to ensure no impacts to this species or its habitat as a result of the development. The NHRM (2010) should be used to guide related setbacks and other species at risk mitigation approaches. Protection of significant habitat of a threatened species under the PPS 2005 could apply. This species is also protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 2007.

Additional fieldwork would be required to understand the specific habitat of Least Bittern relative to the subject lands. The observation was not geo-referenced, however was indicated to us from James Holdsworth that a territorial male was heard calling at the extreme eastern limits of the study area.

3.7 MNR notes that Bobolink was reported during field visit. At the time of the field work in 2008, the species had no status. However, Bobolink is now listed as a threatened by COSEWIC and Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO). MNR recommends additional information is provided to determine to what extent that species is using the subject property.

We understand that Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) has recently been listed as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act. We also understand that specific management strategies for this species have not been finalized (pers. Comm. with MNR Species at Risk biologist, Graham Buck). These are anticipated to be issued within the next two years. As indicated in the April 2010 COSEWIC report for Bobolink, preferred habitat is of grassy meadows of similar height. The cultural meadow within the subject lands consists of irregular occurrence of grass and forb species and is less than 3 ha in size.

Additional surveys will be required to determine the extent that Bobolink is using the subject property.

Once the additional information is provided MNR will provide a response which addresses all concerns (aggregates, wetlands, SWH etc) raised by MNR not just those specific to SAR.

Thank you,

Amanda