

ESA Management Committee Meeting Minutes

October 12th, 2016

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM, UTRCA Boardroom

Present:

City - Linda McDougall, James MacKay, Jaclyn Ramsay (Ivan Listar has retired)
Guests – Municipal Bylaw enforcement – Heather Chapman and Christine Jarvis
UTRCA - Alex Shivas, Cathy Quinlan, Christine Creighton
ESA Team - Dan Jones, Brandon Williamson, Cole Volkaert, Richard Brewer, Devon Hennessy, Tyler Koot, Garrett Boyd, Kaitlin Muma (off)
Regrets - Andrew Macpherson

1) Welcome –

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting, June 14th, 2016. No issues.

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

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

- CMP Phase 2 begins in 2017; Phase I wraps up early 2017
- Invasive species work including work to protect False Rue-anemone Species at Risk (SAR) from Goutweed is successful in protecting SAR and continues in 2017
- Metamora staircase TAG solution now complete – restoration/bioengineering work by UTRCA in fall 2016; good feedback on results from public

3b. The Coves ESA

- Trail work:
 - Elmwood Gateway, Silver Creek Ravine and Euston Meadows trail implementation as per CMP and Local Implementation Committee (LIC) on track for 2016 / 2017 funded by Friends of the Coves through Trillium and Canada 150 grants.
- The potential for stream channel restoration for the Silver Creek ravine is under review. Friends of the Coves applied for funding and staff met with SWM unit to discuss.

3c. Meadowlily Woods ESA

- Phase 1 Conservation Master Plan by Natural Resource Solutions Inc. will proceed in 2017; James McKay will review draft report by the end of 2016 then circulate to EEPAC; there will be a Phase 1 public meeting in 2017.
- Phragmites management work has been undertaken in 2016 by UTRCA

3d. Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA

- Restoration project for the 3.5 ha area infested with nearly 80% buckthorn and dead ash near tourism building to begin in fall / winter 2016 / 2017. Draft ecological restoration plan by St. William's Nursery and Ecology Centre circulated to EEPAC/TFAC and UTRCA in October. Majority of the non-native woody material (dead ash and buckthorn) to be mulched. TAG accessible trail and accessible boardwalk to connect to Dearness home, W.E. Saunders cabin site and tourism building (and some trails to be relocated/closed) in 2017. Buckthorn seedlings/re-sprouts to be killed noting they tend to sprout before the native plants do in the

spring, which will be helpful for control. An adaptive management process will be followed to complete restoration.

- Canada 150 grant of \$100,000 awarded for accessible boardwalks and accessible trail improvements from tourism building and Dearness Home to connect with Saunders Cabin site for 2017 implementation, consistent with the CMP and TAG.
- Treatment of Phragmites, Buckthorns, Black Locust, Knotweed in former landfill area and Phragmites in Saunders Cabin area other areas in 2016 by UTRCA.
- Biannual Community CMP Update Meeting held on 29 September; Steve Sauder assisted
 - discussed upcoming projects to implement CMP, (and TAG and EEPAC) recommendations; 98% of recommendations now addressed or in progress
 - low public turnout despite advertising in the London Free Press & Londoner, circulating poster to EEPAC, Adopt an ESA groups etc.; may publish and circulate update sheets in future instead of hosting public meetings for more effective use of funds and staff time
- Additional Purple Loosestrife beetle releases planned for 2017 including Saunders Pond (last release 2015) for biological control

3e. Sifton Bog ESA

- Hydrology Report being reviewed; James McKay to ensure Linda Nicks from UTRCA receives a copy
- Sifton Bog Terrestrial Study under review by EEPAC
- Boardwalk repair/replacement including AODA compliance under way and platform/dock design and location is under review by EEPAC.
- goldfish dumping sign continues to get vandalized at dock.

3f. Kains Woods ESA

- ESA Team to implement TAG recommendations (i.e., boardwalks) for locations 1, 2 and 10 in 2016.
- Nature London has a list of items for review; Linda McDougall and Brandon Williamson to plan/prioritize list for future implementation.

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 end now completed by UTRCA.

3h. Kilally Meadows ESA

- Invasive species management: Despite previous years' work which helped to limit the spread, DSV remains an issue in some areas. Hope to add DSV to 2017 capital project schedule to get DSV under control.
- One of the Adopt an ESA stewards is a licensed pesticide applicator and has offered to help with DSV herbicide work
- *Action: ESA Team to meet with John Enright of UTRCA about using helpers for herbicide work.*

3i All ESAs – Invasive Species Management

- Bi-annual TreeAzin injections for roughly 136 healthy ash trees in 2016 completed
- Monitor using EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) approach

- Locations have been selected for loosestrife beetle release for June 2017 with Donna MacKenzie of Ontario Beetles in Coves and WMP; could be a public event / information event at Saunders Pond; Linda to follow up with Donna MacKenzie

4) ESA Team Operations Report

a) Power Point (Operations June to Oct 2016)

- the power point was reviewed and discussed

b) Quarterly Report (June to Sept 2016)

- The report was reviewed and year-end report will be forwarded to Linda McDougall

5) Other

a) Brochure Updates – all done except Coves

b) Prescribed Burns

- Brandon Williamson to write up a burn plan for Westminster Ponds ESA Prairie Plots for spring 2017;
- may use this fire for Burn Boss certification (fire advisor to audit); Linda McDougall and Brandon Williamson and Allan Arthur (Ecologist at St. Williams) to review if burn would fit with the St. Williams Nursery and Ecology Centre restoration plan circulated to UTRCA.

c) Seed collection of ash injected with Treeazin

- bad seed year so no seed collected; only one blue ash had seed
- Brandon/Dan to let Sara Rowland know

d) HSP Grant for Butternut work

- HSP grant successful; 21 trees assessed and 11 leaf samples sent for genetic testing (no hybridity found)
- Butternut tree locations were GPS'd

6) Next Meeting - January 2017, 3rd or 4th week