

ESA Management Committee Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2017

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM, UTRCA Boardroom

Present

City - Linda McDougall, James MacKay

UTRCA - Alex Shivas, Cathy Quinlan, Christine Creighton

ESA Team - Dan Jones, Brandon Williamson, Cole Volkaert, Richard Brewer

Regrets - Andrew Macpherson, Jackie Ramsay, Dianna Clark

1) Welcome

2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting, October 12th, 2016.** No Issues.

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

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

- Phase I went to Planning Committee Feb 2017.
- CMP Phase 2 begins in 2017 (Dillon consultants). UTRCA will have a seat on the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) - choose a rep.
- Invasive species work including work to protect Species at Risk (False Rue-anemone) from Goutweed continues in 2017
- City, UTRCA and Dillon staff were recognized by the Federal Government for their good work to improve the knowledge of, and protection of, the False Rue-anemone in Canada in the 2016 Draft Recovery Strategy.

3b. **The Coves ESA**

- Trail work: Elmwood Gateway, Silver Creek Ravine and Euston Meadows trail implementation (formalizing existing trails) substantially complete as per CMP and Local Implementation Committee (LIC) funded by Friends of the Coves through Trillium and Canada 150 grants. Restoration work, invasive species control etc. continues in 2017.
- Stantec is completing a Stream Channel Restoration Design for Silver Creek Ravine as per the CMP, FOTCSI Trillium grant is funding project and Mark Snowsell of UTRCA attended meetings to date.
- Community Stewardship Event for Loosestrife Beetle release East Pond Coves ESA June 7, 5 PM. Donna Mackenzie leading release and short educational talk, all welcome.

3c. **Meadowlily Woods ESA**

- Phase 1 Conservation Master Plan by Natural Resource Solutions Inc. will proceed in 2017; James McKay leading process;
- there will be a Phase 1 public meeting in 2017.

3d. **Westminster Ponds/Pond Mills ESA**

- Restoration plan for the 3.5 ha area infested with nearly 80% buckthorn and dead Ash near tourism building completed (reviewed by EEPAC, TFAC, UTRCA all comments addressed), implementation by St. Williams begins February 2017. Canada 150 grant of nearly \$100,000 awarded for accessible boardwalks and trail improvements (and required restoration) from tourism building and Dearness Home to connect with Saunders Cabin site for 2017 implementation, consistent with the

CMP and TAG. Second TAG walk in spring 2017 to refine TAG route post mulching buckthorn and most of the dead ash.

- Additional Purple Loosestrife beetle releases planned for 2017 for biological control
- Kiosk signage updates underway w Linda, Cathy Quinlan and Nature London
- Heritage signage update underway for Saunders Cabin site; Jaclyn Ramsay lead

3e. Sifton Bog ESA

- Hydrology report on monitoring; James McKay to set up a committee meeting in 2017.
- Sifton Bog Terrestrial Study reviewed by EEPAC
- Boardwalk repair/replacement including AODA compliance under way - updated platform in current location to be installed in 2017.

3f. Kains Woods ESA

- ESA team completed TAG recommendations and accessible boardwalks for locations 1, 2 and 10 in 2016.
- Buckthorn and other invasive species work on track for 2017/2018

3g. Warbler Woods ESA

- Working with Sifton to connect existing Level 1 trail to new Riverbend South community in 2018
- City acquired western half of woods from Sifton; it will be added to the UTRCA agreement in 2018

3h. Kilally Meadows ESA

- Invasive species management: DSV will be managed north and south of river in 2017
- Adopt an ESA steward offered to help with herbicide work

3i) Lower Dingman ESA

- 20 ha on Homewood Lane
- ESA Green Post sign being installed for 2017

3j All ESAs – Invasive Species Management

- Monitor using EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) approach
- Selected loosestrife beetle release locations for 2017 with Donna MacKenzie (MSc) of Ontario Beetles in Coves and WMP

4) ESA Team Operations Report

- a) Power Point (Operations Oct 2016 to Dec 2016)**
- b) Quarterly Report (Oct to Dec 2016)**

5) Other

- a) Lower Dingman ESA – 20 hectares are now managed under UTRCA agreement**
- b) Brochure Updates – all done except Coves (and Lower Dingman)**
- c) Seed collection of ash injected bi-annually with Treeazin (coordinate with Sara Rowland)**
 - seed forecasting for 2017 will occur in June

- d) **HSP Grant for Butternut** work – results of native/hybrid status determination showed all 13 samples were the pure strain. Six are in WMP and all are healthy. May send samples for grafting.
 - e) **Western Masters Env. & Sustainability students** working on a Habitat Protection & Stewardship project for City ESAs - met w Linda, UTRCA, Carolinian Canada staff at UTRCA Feb 2017.
 - f) **Beavers** – update to the Beaver Protocol underway. More tree wrapping needed near stormwater ponds. City and UTRCA to discuss contract work.
- 6) **Next Meeting** - May or June 2017