

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 29, 2017
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	ONE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM STAGE ONE WORK PLAN AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the attached One River Environmental Assessment Technical Memorandum: Stage 1 Work Plan and the attached One River Environmental Assessment Community Consultation Plan **BE RECEIVED**.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Planning and Environment Committee – December 14, 2015 – Back to the River Design Competition

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – January 28, 2016 – Downtown Infrastructure Planning and Coordination

Civic Works Committee – February 2, 2016 – West London Dyke Master Repair Plan Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

Civic Works Committee – February 2, 2016 – Springbank Dam

Civic Works Committee – March 8, 2016 - One River - Master Plan Environmental Assessment

Municipal Council - March 22, 2016 - One River- Master Plan Environmental Assessment: Background Information

Civic Works Committee – November 1, 2016 – One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment: Terms of Reference

Civic Works Committee – February 21, 2017 – One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment – Appointment of Consultant

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan identifies these objectives under Building a Sustainable City: 1B – Managing our infrastructure; 3E -- Strong and Healthy environment through protection of the natural environment; 4E – Beautiful places and spaces through investing in making London’s riverfront beautiful and accessible for all Londoners. Under Growing our Economy: 2A – promote Urban regeneration through investing in London’s downtown as the heart of our city.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

To update members of Council on the One River Environmental Assessment (EA) process, specifically the Technical Memorandum: Stage 1 Work Plan and the Community Consultation Plan.

Context

After a series of reports in 2016, Municipal Council directed that due to the broader social, economic and natural environment issues associated with the Springbank dam, Thames River Valley Corridor, and Back to the River projects, these projects would be studied together through a master plan Environmental Assessment.

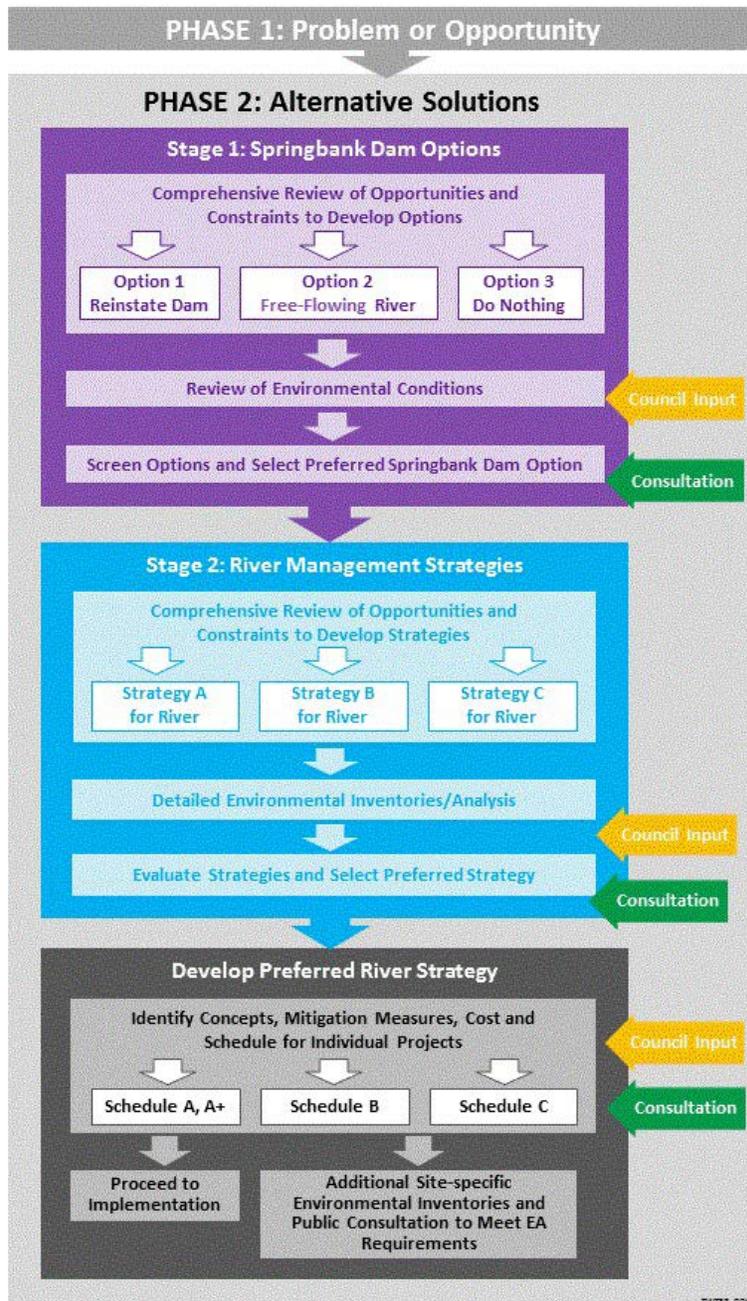
In February 2017, CH2M was appointed the Consultant for the One River EA. The Notice of Commencement was published in The Londoner on July 20th and July 27th of 2017.

DISCUSSION

Technical Memorandum: Stage One Work Plan

The One River Environmental Assessment: Stage 1 Work Plan Technical Memorandum (Appendix ‘A’) presents the approach for completing phase 1 and the first stage of phase 2 of the EA process. Phase 1 includes the review of background information and the determination of the opportunity/problem statement. Phase 2 of the process is the development of alternative solutions and is broken into two stages. Stage 1 includes an examination of the Springbank Dam.

Figure 1: One River Master Plan EA Process (Figure 3.1 from Technical Memorandum)



As noted in the Technical Memorandum, three broad categories are being considered for the Springbank Dam related options:

- Do Nothing so that the dam is left in its current condition with no upgrades, repairs, or repurposing
- Free-Flowing River so that the dam is decommissioned and no longer provides a water retention function. This may include options for repurposing the dam structure and various river, ecological, and recreational enhancements upstream that work within the hydrologic and hydraulic limitations associated with lower water levels during summer months
- Reinstating the Dam so that it provides a water retention function.

Assessment of the options will be based on criterion which fall into the following categories: Natural Environment, Social and Cultural Environment, and Technical and Economic Environment. The criterion are listed in Table 5.1 of the Technical Memorandum.

Upon the completion of this stage, a recommendation will be presented to Council based on an assessment of the impacts, the feasibility of each option, and the outcome of the public and stakeholder engagement to date. It is anticipated that a recommendation related to the future use of the Springbank Dam will be submitted to a Q4 meeting of the Civic Works Committee.

Public Consultation and First Nations Engagement

Consultation is a pivotal part of the Master Plan EA process. As such, the project team is utilizing several methods to solicit input: public consultation, key stakeholder meetings, First Nation and Métis engagement, Internal Steering Committee meetings, Agency Advisory Committee meetings, and integration with the Back to the River “Ribbon of the Thames” team. These are detailed further in Section 3.3 of the Technical Memorandum.

Londoners had the opportunity to share their vision for the Thames River in advance of the consultation phase. Teams have attended community events and hosted pop-up events along the river. This engagement was designed to educate the public about the broader EA process for One River and to capture some initial feedback regarding the current and desired use of the river through the use of a brief survey. The results of the survey will be reported to council in Q3 2017.

Community Consultation Plan

The Community Consultation Plan (attached in Appendix ‘B’) is intended to ensure the public knows about the One River EA and has ample opportunity to provide feedback at every decision point. It should be considered a living document, which can be updated to reflect evolving needs as the study progresses.

A pre-consultation phase for early engagement with the public started in July 2017. Meetings with specific stakeholder groups regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2: Stage 1 continues throughout Q3 of 2017. The current schedule for engagement is shown in the following table.

Table 1: One River EA public engagement schedule.

Public Consultation (Phase 1, Phase 2 Stage 1)	Q3 2017
Public Information Centre to present various alternatives and receive comments (Phase 2, Stage 1)	Q4 2017
Public Information Centre to propose the preferred Master Plan alternative (Phase 2 Stage 2)	Q1 2018
Public Participation Meeting to finalize the One River EA	Q2 2018

As part of the One River EA terms of reference discussions, Municipal Council at its meeting held on December 6, 2016 resolved:

That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to:

- a) report back at a future meeting of the Civic Works Committee with a Council Policy regarding potential procedures to require the draft Terms of Reference related to an Environmental Assessment (EA) process to be posted on the City of London's website for a minimum of 30 days prior to the draft Terms of Reference being brought forward to Municipal Council for consideration and approval; and,*
- b) pending the report back in a), above, 30 days' notice be given prior to the statutory public meetings relative to the EA Process with respect to the One River Master Plan.*

With respect to clause a), a comprehensive review of Council's Public Notice Policy (Council Policy By-law A.-6151-17, Schedule 'E') is currently underway. As part of this review, a requirement will be added to the "Public Notice Requirements" table reflecting the intent of the Council December 6, 2016 resolution. This addition will be submitted to Municipal Council for its consideration.

As noted in clause b) the One River EA communication plan requires that notice for formal Public Meetings and Public Information Centres will be provided a minimum of thirty days prior to the scheduled meeting dates.

Appendix 'C' includes several examples of the engagement materials being used by the project team to attract the public's interest and solicit feedback. The appendix includes the One River logo, the survey and postcard being used at pop-up events, and the public-oriented location map which highlights points of interest within the study area.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that the Public Consultation Report and the Agency Advisory Committee Report will be brought forward to the September 26, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee. These reports will be important tools in the assessment of options for Springbank Dam.

CONCLUSION

The One River EA is still in the early stages of the study, and is progressing well. The next several months will be critical in engaging the public and reviewing the environmental conditions in order to assess options for the Springbank Dam and direct the subsequent phases of the One River EA.

This report was prepared by Ashley Rammeloo, P.Eng., Acting Division Manager of Stormwater Engineering.

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Attach: Appendix 'A' – Technical Memorandum: Stage One Work Plan
Appendix 'B' – Community Consultation Plan
Appendix 'C' – Sample One River Engagement Materials

cc. J. Fleming, S. Stafford, D. Hsia