

# ESA Management Committee Meeting Minutes

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, UTRCA Boardroom

## Present

- City - Linda McDougall, Andrew Macpherson, Gabrielle Nichols (Co-op Student) and Christine Jarvis (enforcement)
- UTRCA - Alex Shivas, Cathy Quinlan, Christine Creighton
- ESA Team - Dan Jones, Brandon Williamson, Cole Volkaert, Richard Brewer, Devon Hennessy, Nathan Schoelier, Kaitlyn Muma, David Scott (summer student)
- Regrets - James McKay, Jaclyn Ramsay

## 1) Welcome

2) **Minutes of Previous Meeting, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.** No changes.

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

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

- CMP Phase 2 by City with Dillon Consulting leading Community engagement process. City has no proposals at this time seeking input from Community. Public Open House June 1<sup>st</sup> was well attended; survey open online until July 1, 2017. Comments welcome.
- Local Advisory Committee (LAC) includes a UTRCA rep. Next meeting July 27.
- Invasive species work, including work to protect Species at Risk (False Rue-anemone) from Goutweed, continues in 2017. Funding from London Community Foundation for some additional inv. work.
- Purple Loosestrife beetles being released today to control this invasive plant that has recently made a come-back.

### **3b. The Coves ESA**

- Restoration work, invasive species control, etc., continues in 2017. Trail implementation as per CMP and LIC well underway.
- Quiet Nature consulting will be contracted to do additional invasive species/restoration work. Friends of the Coves raised funds from Canada 150 and Trillium for the work. City will create new signs to inform public about the work. ESA team will install sign stakes/t-bars.
- Stream Channel Restoration Design by Stantec for Silver Creek/Southcrest Ravine funded by Trillium/FOTCSI/City underway.
- Community Stewardship Event for Loosestrife Beetle release East Pond Coves ESA occurred on June 7, 5 PM. Donna Mackenzie led release and gave a short educational talk.

### **3c. Meadowlily Woods ESA**

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

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

- Restoration of the 3.5 ha area behind Tourism building well underway. St. Williams Nursery under contract with City. TAG's granular trails going in mid-July. Signs up.
- Additional Purple Loosestrife beetle releases planned for 2017 for biological control
- Kiosk signage updates underway w Cathy Quinlan. Ready for mid-October ribbon-cutting event.
- Heritage signage update underway for W. E. Saunders Cabin site; Robin Armistead and Jaclyn Ramsay lead. An engineer's design for TAG's cabin platform to be done. Suitability of existing posts being determined.

### **3e. Sifton Bog ESA**

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

### **3f. Kains Woods ESA**

- Buckthorn and other invasive species work on track for 2017 and 2018.

### **3g. Warbler Woods ESA**

- Working with Sifton to connect existing Level 1 trail to new Riverbend South community in 2018
- TAG walk to be coordinated 2017/2018
- New lands will be brought into ESA team responsibility very soon with full management in 2018.
- ***ACTION: Linda to send GPS shape files to Dan Jones.***
- Linda and ESA Team to do a reconnaissance walk to look at existing trails.

### **3h. Kilally Meadows ESA**

- Invasive species management: DSV will be managed north and south of river in 2017

### **3i) Lower Dingman ESA**

- ESA Green Post sign and trail blazes etc. as per TAG walk being installed in 2017
- Periwinkle treatment in 2017
- AODA trail info needed as per TAG; Gabrielle Nichols (Co-op Student) will work on it

### **3j All ESAs – Invasive Species Management**

- Monitor using EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) approach ongoing

## **4) ESA Team Operations Report**

### **a) Power Point (Operations -- Jan to June 2017)**

#### **Notes:**

- Linda McDougall informed the ESA Team that London Cares will come out and clean up discarded needle sites when called.
- Sewer Operations at the City will start cleaning out sewer outlets that are plugged and backing up water. They have been asked to monitor the outlets near the ESAs regularly.

5) **Other**

- a) **Brochure Updates** – all done except Covers; Lower Dingman TBD. Remove from agenda.
  - b) **Seed collection** of ash injected with Treeazin
    - seed forecasting for 2017 will occur in June and, if there is seed, collection will be coordinated with Sara Rowland of the City
  - c) **London Phragmites Strategy** underway with Dr. Janice Gilbert retained as Consultant. City is forming a London Phragmites Working Group to assist in drafting the Strategy. Gabrielle Nichols leading project with Linda McDougall.
  - d) **A Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework Workshop** by Karen Alexander (from Ann Arbor Michigan) to be held at the UTRCA WCC on Wed July 12<sup>th</sup>. Focus on monitoring strategies. Sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and targeted to municipalities (City and UTRCA to attend) and Conservation Authorities, etc.
- 6) **Next Meeting** - October 2017