

Agenda Item # Page #

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PEC

Lysynski, Heather

From: Sara Rans
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 6:57 PM
To: Polhill, Bud; Bryant, Judy; Henderson, Dale; White, Sandy; Swan, Joseph; Lysynski, Heather; Martin, Jackie
Subject: Consent Item #2 Regarding Beavers

I am writing on behalf of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of which I am a member. Our mandate is to advise Council on matters pertaining to companion animals and wildlife in the City. Since January, our Wildlife Subcommittee has been working with City Staff on an urban wildlife policy for beavers. In the Spring, City Council approved a motion to adopt non-lethal solutions to urban wildlife conflicts.

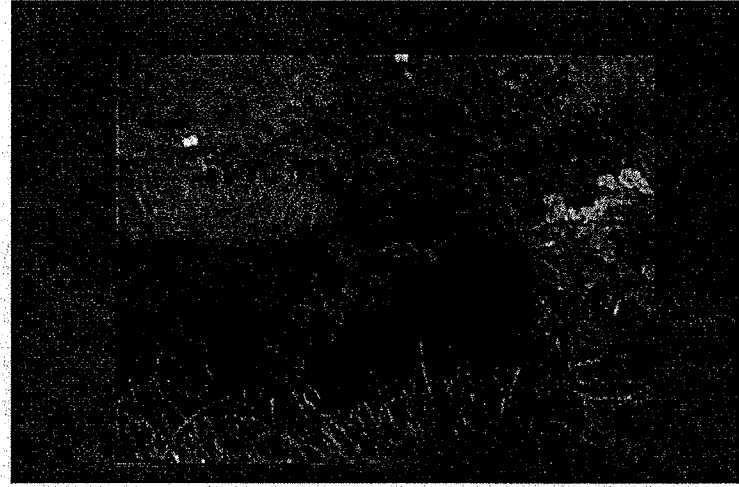
Consent Item 2 does not comply with Council's decision. The beaver is a keystone species, which means its wellbeing affects hundreds of other species in the area. Trapping beaver and destroying their lodge and dams mean that beaver (a 65 pound creature) will be killed, its home exploded and its dams, which repair damaged ecosystems, will be destroyed.

The Wildlife Subcommittee's preliminary research indicates that:

1. Several municipalities in Ontario are using cost-effective devices to save trees, prevent floods, and stop stormwater blockages. These devices address every concern the Department of Engineering Services mentions in its report.
2. Trappers never relocate beaver, they will use conibear traps which crush and kill the animal and, if traps are set and left, cause safety concerns in areas where small children and pets might wander.
3. Trapping rarely resolves the problem. Beaver families will re-inhabit the locations where beavers, dams, and lodges are removed.
4. The research the Engineer's Department is using to make its case is from a consultant's report which is out of date and does not reflect the Government of Ontario's move toward designating stormwater ponds as important for biodiversity AND labeling them green rather than gray infrastructure. It is unlikely that the consultant had any knowledge of non-lethal solutions used by other municipalities, the success of these solutions nationally and in the U.S., or an understanding of the beaver as it repairs damaged ecosystems.

The powerpoint attached, a draft of which is in AWAC's 4th Report to Council, provides more information. We will be present at your meeting should you have questions.

We are asking that the Planning Committee please refer this item back to the Department for information-sharing and discussion with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. We further request that Council continue to adopt non-lethal solutions to London's urban-wildlife conflicts.



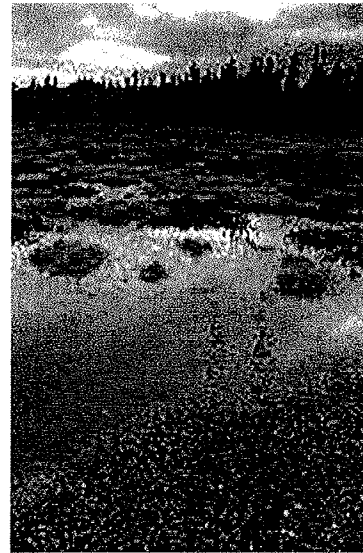
Beaver: A Keystone Species

Report by the Wildlife Subcommittee of the
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, City of
London

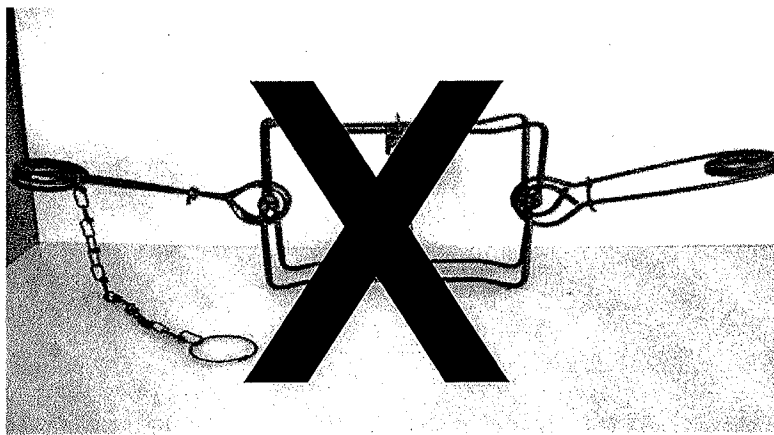
In response to the City's Stanton Drain and
Hyde Park SWM Facility 4 – Scoped
Environmental Impact Study recommended
by the City Engineer's Office Jan. 25/12

Benefits of Beaver

- Beavers support one of the most productive ecosystems- **wetlands**,
- Beaver clear channels and keep waterways open
- Beaver ponds improve water quality of streams and lakes,
- Beaver ponds decrease erosion and filter sediments, toxins and excess nutrients from the water



AWAC **does not agree with** AECOM's recommendation to the Engineer's Department that the beaver lodge and dams be destroyed and that a licensed trapper kill the beavers. Inhumane conibear traps crush and suffocate the beaver.



Non-lethal, Effective Solutions

- ◉ To protect trees, use wire mesh wraps
- ◉ To prevent floods, use flow devices such as the Flexible Leveler or the Castor Master
- ◉ To prevent blocked storm sewers, use the Beaver Deceiver, the Beaver Baffle, or the trapezoidal fence and pipe system

Diagrams - Trapezoidal Fence for Culvert Protection

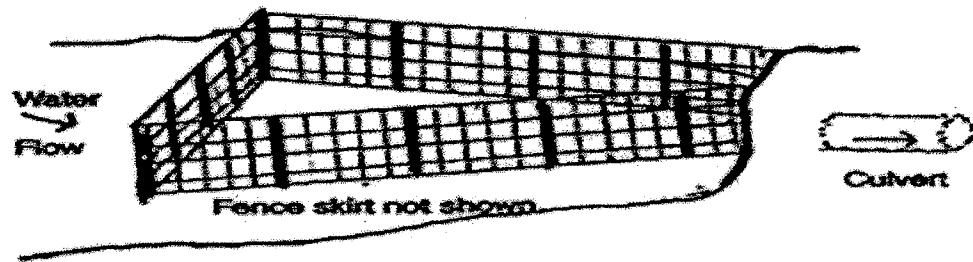


Figure A - Side View

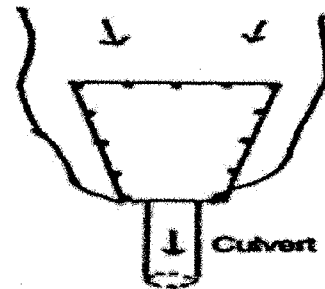


Figure B - Top View

AWAC recommends ...

alternative, **non-lethal** solutions that have been adopted by 4 Ontario municipalities:

- Guelph
- Oakville
- Oshawa
- Richmond Hill
- Cornwall

