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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 20, 2012
FROM:	JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	FOREST CITY INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY AND WESTMINSTER WETLAND COMPLEX

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Engineering and City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the Forest City Industrial Stormwater Management Facility and Westminster Wetland Complex:

- (a) the additional water resources and ecological monitoring and investigation **BE DEFERRED** and incorporated as part of the analysis of the Dingman Creek Subwatershed Study Update to the Water Resources Component.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Planning and Environment Committee – February 27, 2012, Forest City Industrial Stormwater Management (SWM) Facility and Westminster Wetland Complex

BACKGROUND

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the feasibility to undertake additional water resources and ecological investigation of tree sustainability in the Westminster Wetland Complex such that recommendations with respect to sustaining the features and functions of the Westminster Wetland Complex downstream of the Forest City SWM Facility may be made (see location map in Appendix 'A').

Context:

In February 2012, staff reported that the assessment of the Forest City SWM Facility and Westminster Wetland Complex completed by AECOM confirmed that the Forest City SWM system is functioning in accordance with the Ministry of the Environment Certificate of Approval for this sewerage works and there is no evidence that the contribution of stormwater from the Forest City SWM facility is causing stress or tree mortality within the Westminster Wetland Complex. Based on the assessment a lack of maintenance of the outlet of the wetland and changes in precipitation patterns appear to be the principal factors that led to changes to the wetlands' hydroperiod and resulting in the perceived stress and tree mortality. The costs associated with this investigation and monitoring program were approximately \$48,000.

Staff noted in their report to the Planning and Environment Committee on February 27, 2012 that Council may consider undertaking additional investigation in the spring such that recommendations with respect to further evaluation and recommendations to sustaining the features and functions of the Westminster Wetland Complex may be made. Council accepted AECOM's report and directed Civic Administration to work with ReForest London, as part of the One Million Tree Challenge, on tree plantings for this area.

Discussion:

In April 2012 the City met with the Mr. James R. Keron (a portion of the Westminster Wetland Complex is situated on his family property at 1741 Wilton Grove Road) to discuss the recommendations of AECOM's assessment and Council's direction.

SWM Unit staff also informed Mr. Keron that, in accordance with the City practices and requirements, the City is not responsible to maintain private drains and it is the responsibility of the landowners to ensure these private drains are functioning adequately.

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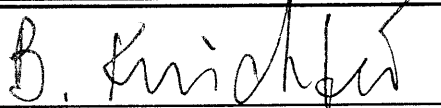
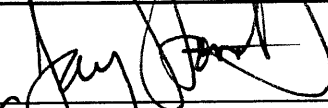
Mr. Keron maintains that the City should consider undertaking remediation of the waterway/channel (a portion of which is located on private lands) to drain through this Provincially Significant Wetland however it is the opinion of the City that this undertaking may adversely impact the baseflow conditions and water balance as well as the functionality of the water resources system.

The estimated cost associated with the water resources and ecological monitoring and investigation to further review potential impacts and modifications that may have on baseflow conditions and the water balance of the Westminster Wetland Complex is \$25,000. This includes further ecological assessment of the trees and water level monitoring and analysis of the interaction between the Provincially Significant Wetland and Dingman Creek.

Although the original report on February 27, 2012, has considered as a potential next step to undertake an additional investigation in the spring 2013 with respect to monitoring water resources and terrestrial features and functions of the Westminster Wetland Complex, Council direction has not supported this next step of monitoring due to a lack of the funding available for this work. The City is in the process of initiating the Dingman Creek Subwatershed Study Update that will commence this fall; we recommend that this additional water resources/ecological monitoring and investigation be added as a specific consideration for this area as part of the analysis.

Conclusions:

The investigation and monitoring of this Wetland Complex completed to date is valued at approximately \$48,000. The funding needed for this work is not available. We recommend that the additional water resources and ecological monitoring and investigation be added as a specific consideration to this area as part of the analysis of the Dingman Creek Subwatershed Study Update to the Water Resources Component.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
	
BERTA KRICKER, M.ENG., F.E.C., P.ENG. MANAGER OF STORMWATER STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UNIT	JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING AND CITY ENGINEER

August 9, 2012

Attach: Appendix "A" – Location Map

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APPENDIX 'A'

