

From: WILLIAM LYONS

Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 11:05 PM

To: Lysynski, Heather

Subject: Stanton Drain, Item 21, Planning & Environment Committee meeting, Oct 15, 2012

October 15th, 2012

Re: Item 21, Stanton Drain, Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
(to be heard after 9:30pm, Mon Oct 15, 2012)

Dear Heather Lysynski:

I respectfully request that the following comments be included as an added item on the agenda for this evening's Planning & Environment Committee meeting, Item 21, Stanton Drain.

I am gravely concerned about the wildlife in the Stanton Drain reconstruction area. I am especially concerned about the turtles that will undoubtedly be injured or killed during the reconstruction process. I can confirm with photographic evidence and GPS coordinates that turtles, in fact, do live in Stanton Drain. For example, I know that a mature female Snapping Turtle resides in the project area because I found the remains of a Snapping Turtle nest near the Drain on September 23rd, 2012. The Snapping Turtle is listed on Ontario's list of at-risk species as "Special Concern". It is on this list partly because of projects like Stanton Drain that damage or destroy turtle habitat. In addition to Snapping Turtles, I have also encountered Midland Painted Turtles basking in the water in Stanton Drain on two different occasions. These turtles should be given every opportunity to live out their lives in what is left of their ever-diminishing wetland habitat. Please note that I have six years of reptile conservation experience with the turtles of the London area, and that the accuracy of the above sightings is reliable.

If and when the project proceeds, what provisions will be made to ensure that these animals are not harmed or killed during reconstruction? What provisions will be made in the event that a turtle is scooped out from the bottom of the channel and dumped onto a pile of excavated material or into the back of a dump truck? If you would kindly address these two questions, I would appreciate it.

If you need further details on my turtle sightings, feel free to contact me. Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

William J. Lyons

#36-1511 Aldersbrook Road

London, Ontario

N6G 3A4