



April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Subject:** Request for Delegation regarding estimated costs to decommission Springbank Dam as part of the One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment.

Addressed to: **Members of the Strategic Planning & Priorities Committee**

Honorable Mayor E. Holder (Chair) edholder@london.ca  
Councillor M. van Holst, mvanholst@london.ca  
Councillor S. Lewis, slewis@london.ca  
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**CC'd:**

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**Thames River Anglers Association & The Ontario Rivers Alliance:**

The Thames River Anglers Association is a London, Ontario based dedicated group of volunteers that have worked diligently since 1986 to improve the overall health of the Thames River and its tributaries. We accomplish this through stream rehabilitation projects, educational programs and actively working with landowners, agencies and various levels of government to protect and sustain a diverse multi-species fishery.

Comments:

The TRAA has actively participated and provided feedback throughout the consultation phases of the One River Master Plan – Environmental Assessment including the Stage #2 Public Information Centre #1 on June 6<sup>th</sup> at Museum London and the Stage #2 Public Information Centre #2 on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Central Library. These sessions included presentations of the River Management, Dam Decommissioning and Forks of the Thames Options including the score methodology used to weigh the options leading to each recommendation.

- 1) The Thames River Anglers applauds the decision made by London City Council to unanimously choosing a free flowing river through decommissioning Springbank Dam. (Slide#2)
- 2) During the Stage #2 public information centers, only a very broad estimate of costs was communicated regarding the expected costs of partially or fully decommissioning Springbank Dam.(slide #3)

- 3) Our organization as part of a joint submission provided feedback expressing our concerns with this lack of transparency and detail into expected costs. We made repeated efforts to get more detailed costs from city staff which were promised but not fulfilled.
- 4) When reviewing the Alternatives Preliminary Scoring Summary it is evident that the averages scored and decision to recommend partial dam removal was a very small margin of 0.2 average however the technical & economic scoring shows that Partial removal had a score of 4.2 and full removal was a 2.7. (slide 4) This means that even an adjustment of 50% of a point could alter the recommended preferred option to council.
- 5) The Thames River Anglers has been involved with other organizations that have completed dam removal projects in Southern Ontario during the last few years. In every single project the costs estimated to council for partial or full dam removal were dramatically higher than the actual cost to remove the structure. (slides 5 & 6)

We request that London City Council and members of the Strategic Planning & Priorities Committee request a more detailed breakdown of costs associated with both partial and full dam removal including expecting ongoing maintenance/repair costs for partial removal.

We request that they revisit the scoring and weighting of the preferred alternatives and consider that full dam removal is a one-time cost to taxpayers and presents the most cost effective, the safest for the community and best option for the health of the river.

Thank you,  
Robert Huber

President Thames River Anglers  
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