

Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

Report

The 7th Meeting of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
June 20, 2019
Committee Rooms #1 and #2

Attendance PRESENT: S. Levin (Chair), E. Arellano, I. Arturo, A. Bilson Darko, A. Boyer, A. Cleaver, R. Doyle, C. Dyck, S. Esan, P. Ferguson, L. Grieves, S. Hall, S. Heuchan, K. Moser, B. Samuels, S. Sivakumar, R. Trudeau, M. Wallace and I. Whiteside and H. Lysynski (Secretary)

ABSENT: L. Banks, J. Khan, B. Krichker and I. Mohamed

ALSO PRESENT: G. Barrett, C. Creighton, J. MacKay, L. McDougall, C. Saunders, M. Schulthess, B. Westlake-Power and E. Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM

1. Call to Order

1.1 Orientation

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee heard verbal presentations from C. Saunders, City Clerk, M. Schulthess, Deputy City Clerk and B. Westlake-Power, Deputy City Clerk, with respect to an orientation.

1.2 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that M. Wallace disclosed a pecuniary interest in clause 5.2 of this Report having to do with the Old Victoria - Grenier Lands Geotechnical Investigation - Slope Stability, by indicating that his employer has a business relationship with Sifton Properties Limited.

1.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the term ending November 30, 2019

That the following actions be taken with respect to the election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the term ending November 30, 2019:

a) notwithstanding section 4.12 of the General Policy for Advisory Committees, S. Levin BE ELECTED as Chair; and,

b) S. Hall BE ELECTED as Vice-Chair.

2. Scheduled Items

None.

3. Consent

3.1 6th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 6th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee from its meeting held on May 16, 2019, was received.

3.2 5th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 5th Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee from its meeting held on May 22, 2019, was received.

3.3 Municipal Council Resolution - 6th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on June 11, 2019, with respect to the 6th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, was received.

3.4 Notice of Public Information Centre 1 - Dingman Drive East of Wellington Road to Highway 401 and Area Intersections - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Public Information Centre 1 for Dingman Drive, east of Wellington Road to Highway 401 and area intersections Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Review of One River Master Plan Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

That the attached Working Group comments relating to the One River Master Plan Municipal Class Environmental Assessment BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

4.2 You, Your Dog and Environmentally Significant Areas Brochure

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the "You, Your Dog and Environmentally Significant Areas" brochure drafted by P. Ferguson; it being noted that this matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Trails Advisory Group for Environmentally Significant Areas

That R. Trudeau and K. Moser BE APPOINTED as the representative and alternate, respectively, to the Trails Advisory Group for Environmentally Significant areas.

5.2 Old Victoria - Grenier Lands Geotechnical Investigation - Slope Assessment

That it BE NOTED that the Old Victoria - Grenier Lands Geotechnical Investigation - Slope Assessment prepared for Sifton Properties Limited by exp Services Inc., was received.

6. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: To be Determined

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Review of the ONE RIVER Master Plan Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) by JACOBS, dated May 2019

The City of London identified that the overall goal of the One River Master Plan Class EA study is to develop a comprehensive plan that encompasses the implementation plan and strategies for various projects within the One River study area.

This Master Plan identifies:

- the infrastructure projects major principals that have been assessed based on the Municipal Class EA Master Plan stage requirements under the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA); and
- the community's visions and needs regarding social, recreational, cultural, environmental and economic issues associated with the One River Master Plan Class EA study area.

The **One River Master Plan Strategy** incorporates the selected preferred alternatives for the:

- ***Springbank Dam;***
- ***Forks of the Thames; and***
- ***River Management Plan to reflect the City's current and future vision of the Thames River as an important environmental, ecological and cultural heritage resources.***

Furthermore, this Master Plan recommends various projects become the basis for future planning and project infrastructure implementation and in some permanent infrastructure cases, further Municipal Class EA studies will be required to be undertaken prior to constructing these works.

Springbank Dam Partial Removal - One River Master Plan Class EA the selected preferred alternatives

EEPAC has no concerns and supports the **One River Master Plan selected preferred alternatives for the Springbank Dam Partial Removal that was completed as Class EA, Schedule B** and provided adequate details. EEPAC agrees with the Master Plan Class EA conclusions and this Plan's recommended solution that is intended to improve River environmental/ecological conditions and the system health, water quality and sediment transportation conditions, as well the southern shoreline should be restored and the existing dam structure should be stabilized.

EEPAC has the concern that the post-construction water quality monitoring was not included in the recommendations for the **Springbank Dam Partial Removal** work. EEPAC is of the opinion that the post-construction water quality monitoring is a critical component of the post construction monitoring requirements and is intended to measure the expected water quality improvements as the results of the recommended solution for the Springbank Dam of the One River Master Plan. This water quality monitoring program was also suggested and identified in previous comments from EEPAC to the City staff and the Consultant in January 2019.

Recommendations:

1. EEPAC recommends that the post-construction water quality monitoring program be undertaken by the City in addition to the Master Plan identified proposed post-construction monitoring programs. EEPAC recommends that the post-construction water quality monitoring program be consisted with the water quality basic chemistry monitoring/analysis together with BioMAP biological monitoring of the Thames River water quality and be implemented to measure and evaluate the water quality improvements associated with the **Springbank Dam Partial Removal** proposed work.
2. EEPAC recommends that the Restoration Mitigation Naturalization Plan, which will be required to be developed during the detailed design stage for this proposed work, be reviewed by EEPAC to reaffirm and ensure that improved River environmental/ecological conditions and health associated with the proposed works are maintaining, protecting and meeting the public's expectations.

The Forks of the Thames Suspended Walkway and Softscaped Terraces- One River Master Plan Class EA the selected preferred alternatives

This solution includes the Thames Suspended Walkway and Softscaped Terraces that are intended to provide:

- public exposure;
- spaces for events;
- access to the shoreline;
- pathways to provide pedestrian integration with exiting City's Parks, all works need to be done in accordance with City standards;
- existing sewer outfalls protection and access to linear infrastructure; and
- design of the space that will be provided by the First Nation Community for their cultural requirements.

EEPAC has concerns related to the Thames Suspended Walkway and Softscaped Terraces proposed work solution. EEPAC concerns are mostly based on the facts that this construction would require construction equipment and usages of this equipment would cause significant intrusions into the existing natural areas of this study areas and potentially create adverse impacts on the existing ecological/environmental system and the system conditions. Therefore, EEPAC is of the opinion that potential adverse impacts of the proposed works are not well addressed by the required specific details and/or mitigated in River Master Plan. Also, the mitigation and compensation plan are not identified.

Furthermore, the proposed work represents new **permanent** structural work that may create significant adverse impacts on and/or substantially alter the existing slope stability conditions and the erosion hazard limits within the proposed work areas that may case adverse impacts on ecological/environmental conditions. Also, appropriate remediation slope stability measures/works may be required to be implemented to minimize the long-term adverse impacts on the study area.

Recommendations:

1. As identified in the One River Master Plan Class EA, Schedule 'B', EEPAC recommends that additional detail studies related to assessments and evaluations of the existing and future Geotechnical, Hydrogeological and Slope Stability conditions, as well as the evaluation of the existing infrastructure outlets conditions, locations, relation to the existing slope stability and the proposed work needs to be undertaken, prior to completing the detailed design.
2. Taking into consideration that the Thames Suspended Walkway and Softscaped Terraces proposed work represents a new permanent structural work, which also includes the existing sewer outfalls protection and access to linear infrastructure, and completed only as the Master Plan Class EA, Schedule 'B' (some parts of Class EA process are not completed because they are not required under the status of the Master Plan of Class EA process), EEPAC suggests that a full scale Municipal Class EA, Schedule 'B' study for the proposed work may required, subject to accepting the One River Master Plan of Class EA by MOECP and their conditions of acceptance of this Class EA.
3. EEPAC recommends that all additional detailed studies, which will be developed for this proposed work, be reviewed by EEPAC to reaffirm and to ensure that improved River environmental/ecological conditions and the system health associated with the proposed works will be maintained, protected and meet the public's expectation.

One River Management Plan: Stage 2 - Strategic River Corridor Active Use and strategic access to the Thames River

One River Management Plan - Stage 2 - Strategic River Corridor Active Use and strategic access to the Thames River represents an overall plan that encompasses River accesses, social (fishing and boating) and environmental management.

Stage 2 identified and evaluated River Management Plan Alternatives and recommended and selected the preferred alternatives for River Management Class EA Schedule B and C projects studies that will be required to be undertaken as an additional Class EA work, which were identified within the One River Master Plan Class EA as part of the Stage 2 River Management Plan (not including the Springbank Dam and Forks of the Thames projects).

The Schedule A works for the River Management Plan are recommended to proceed on the basis of this Master Plan and MEA Master Planning Process, subject to reaffirming that the proposed Schedule A projects will have minimum adverse impacts on environmental/ecological conditions within the One River Master Plan study area.

EEPAC has no concerns and supports in principal the One River Management Plan - Stage 2 - Strategic River Corridor Active Use and strategic access to the Thames River.

Recommendations:

1. EEPAC recommends that all detailed studies and additional Class EA studies for the various projects for the Stage 2, River Management Plan proposed work be reviewed by EEPAC to reaffirm and to ensure the improved River environmental/ecological conditions and the system health associated with the proposed works be maintained, protected and meet the public's expectation.