

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING DATE	River Systems Advisory Committee Dec 15, 2016
LOCATION TIME	City Hall - Meeting Room B 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Mariette Pushkar (Chair), Javier Acosta, Ryan VanEngen, Beth Anne Fischer, Eric Wilson, Ian McCormick, Jeremy Shute
EXTERNAL GROUPS	Cheryl-Anne Ross- Aboud & Associates, Jack Turner - GM Blue Plan
STAFF PRESENT	Adele Labbe, Tiffany Brule, Madeleine Myhill
MEMBERS ABSENT	Nicola Lower

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	<p>Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roll call and certification of quorum - attendance was noted and quorum was declared ▪ Declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest – Mariette Pushkar on this Agenda Item ▪ Adoption of May 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes – deferred to the next meeting
2	<p>Agenda:</p> <p>City of Guelph – Ward to Downtown Pedestrian Bridges Environmental Assessment Jack Turner, Cheryl-Anne Ross, and Mariette Pushkar presented on the Ward to Downtown Pedestrian Bridges Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Presentation highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for bridges based on downtown secondary plan and urban growth centre (6000 residents and 2000 jobs by 2031) • Reviewed preliminary alternative locations (5 alternatives) • Summary of natural environment results - impacts for all alternatives relatively equal • Review of geomorphic assessment and Hydraulic Assessment (by Ecosystems Recovery) • Discussion of proposed alternatives (locations, preliminary pros/cons, types of bridges and structures) • Monitoring of water quality – no significant information pertaining to surface water in Guelph – this study to start gathering data

- Significant amounts of buckthorn and Manitoba Maple
- Alternative 1 will likely be one of the preferred alternative
- Discussion around hydraulics – needs to be looked at in more detail
- Pedestrians crosswalk on Wellington being considered along with traffic calming
- Concerns around the dam that is outside of the study zone – is there a management plan for the dam? The management of the dam is a practice but no written management plan for it.
- Second bridge will be built in longer term time horizon

Adele Labbe, Environmental Planner with the City of Guelph provided some feedback from Environmental Planning perspective

The RSAC went into committee to discuss the motion.

Moved by Eric Wilson and seconded by Ryan VanEngen,

The River System Advisory Committee conditionally support the Draft Environmental Impact Study prepared by Aboud and Associates and the Draft Fluvial Geomorphic Assessment by Ecosystem Recovery and that the following item should be incorporated into the final versions:

1. That buffers are recommended to ensure protection of the Natural Heritage System;
2. That the impact assessment include consideration for impacts such as light, design aesthetics and operation/maintenance of the bridges (winter salt application);
3. That a section ranking alternatives from both environmental and geomorphic perspective be included and consider the following:
 - a. The existing condition of the riparian zone and river bank (i.e., existing retaining walls vs. naturalized bank);
 - b. Aquatic habitat and geomorphic features such as deep pool, vegetation overhanging the river, and deposition/erosion areas;
 - c. High quality vegetation such as large diameter and native specimens in the area;
 - d. Cumulative impacts, for example coupling new infrastructure with old infrastructure to reduce cumulative impacts;
4. That section 7 be revised to include the following recommendations:
 - a. The area of construction disturbance shall be kept to a minimum;
 - b. Ensure the trail design to the bridges is located away from sensitive features;
 - c. Works are to be located as far away from the feature boundary as possible;
 - d. Disturbed areas shall be restored with indigenous plants;
 - e. Provide further direction as to the timing windows to avoid disturbing wildlife during critical life stages;
 - f. Educational signage be installed along the Downtown Trail to provide information to reduce induced impacts (i.e., no off-leash dogs, etc.); and
 - g. Garbage receptacles are provided;
5. That a Figure which illustrates where restoration and invasive species management

	<p>opportunities exist (from MacDonnell to Neeve Street) be provided to compliment sections 4.4 and 7 where a restoration, compensation and invasive species management plan to offset the impacts and meet policy requirements is recommended; and</p> <p>6. That the restoration opportunities include opportunities to restore/soften and/or enhance the river bank edge, and including removal of the sanitary sewer pipe that may be a barrier to fish movement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried -Unanimous-</p>
3.	<p>Next meeting of RSAC will be January 18, 2016</p>
4.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.</p> <p>Moved by R. VanEngen and seconded by J. Acosta,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried -Unanimous-</p>