

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING DATE	River Systems Advisory Committee February 15, 2017
LOCATION TIME	City Hall - Meeting Room A 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Mariette Pushkar (Chair), Ryan VanEngen, Beth Anne Fischer, Kendall Flower, Jesse VanPatter, Nicola Lower
EXTERNAL GROUPS	Sal Spitale, North-South Environmental, Devin Soeting, R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd., Heather Drost, MMM Group
STAFF PRESENT	Adele Labbe, Madeleine Myhill, Ken VanderWal, Luke Jefferson
MEMBERS ABSENT	Javier Acosta, Eric Wilson

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 ▪ Introduction of new members ▪ Declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest ▪ Adoption of 2016 meeting minutes
2	<p>Agenda:</p> <p>City of Guelph – Eastview Road Reconstruction Ken VanderWal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of project is to improve infrastructure – add storm sewer and change from rural to urban cross-section • Original EIS done in April 2009 recommended 4 dry wildlife culverts • EIS highlights – study includes NHS Clyde Creek, significant woodlands, fish habitat and Hadati Creek, significant valleyland, significant wildlife habitat, and restoration area (pollinator park) • Road mortality surveys yielded high number of amphibians DOR in a relatively short amount of time • Eastern Meadowlark, Snapping Turtle and Eastern Wood-Pewee observed • Locally rare flora and fauna species observed • Presented significant features/constraints map

- Presented image of standard road cross section compared to what is being proposed – 11.5 metres where there would generally be 19
- Reviewed anticipated schedule for the project
- Committed to tree compensation and being mindful of breeding birds
- Looking at replacing existing culvert with large box culvert – this will connect creek directly
- Environmental Impact Analysis – looked at alternative options, potential short-term and direct impacts: erosion, sedimentation and spills, soil compaction and damage to vegetation, dewatering
- Potential long-term and indirect impacts: tree removal, significant woodlands, hydrologic regime of PSW, amphibian breeding and movement, breeding habitat for Eastern Wood-Pewee and other local species, human disturbance from multi-use trail (fence to potentially mitigate this, or educational signage)
- EIS recommendations reviewed – avoidance, mitigation, and compensation – major focus is Hadati Creek. Groundwater discharge plan, tree protection, tree fencing, compensation plantings, timing windows, wildlife crossings and funnel fencing, chain link fence between the multi-use path and the funnel fence
- Presented map of proposed tree compensation and wildlife crossings
- Adele Labbe, Environmental Planner with the City of Guelph, provided some feedback from Environmental Planning perspective and reviewed her comments
- Funnel fencing discussion – stone road example with chain link and galvanized mesh along bottom – operations able to work well with this kind of fencing

The RSAC went into committee to discuss.

Moved by Nicola Lower and seconded by Ryan VanEngen,

THAT The River Systems Advisory Committee conditionally supports the City’s Eastview Road Reconstruction project and the Draft EIS by North-South Environmental provided that:

- **Clarity around the watercourse culvert extension to improve fish passage, and fisheries timing window is provided in the EIS**
- **The design of the watercourse culvert replacement improves wildlife movement by angling the main culvert**
- **Number of wildlife crossings is in line with current science**
- **Wildlife crossings and funnel fencing are installed during appropriate timing window and effectiveness is monitored**
- **Tree compensation is provided to enhance the forest**
- **Educational signage is provided along the multi-use trail**
- **Recommendations related to maintenance of trail are provided**
- **RSAC members be provided an opportunity to review the detailed design drawings (i.e., culvert, riparian plantings, and compensation plan)**

**Motion Carried
Unanimous**

Silvercreek Park – Speed River Trail West

Luke Jefferson

Heather Dorst, MMM Group

- Project goals: the continued implementation of the Guelph Trail Master Plan
- 1.1 km section of trail identified as Mid-Term Priority
- The proposed section of trail is also identified as part of the Guelph Active Transportation Network
- The City received a federal grant to complete
- Presented map of trail location
- EIS highlights: focus was to limit impact to NHS and individual trees by carefully aligning the proposed trail. Honey Locust and 3 locally significant flora species observed (Sand Dune Willow, Canada Clearweed and Greenhead Coneflower), Snapping Turtle and six locally significant birds observed, SWH: waterfowl overwintering area, candidate raptor wintering area & potential reptile hibernacula, potential nesting waterfowl function, river corridor function (wildlife movement also observed)
- Presented map of proposed trail alignment – significant consideration given to layout of trail. Challenge will be balancing what is there and making a path that people will use – footpath right along river – south side of skateboard park (problematic area, trampled and littered) putting trail where there’s already an impacted area
- EIA: Evaluation of alternatives, vegetation removal, further analysis for Howitt Creek
- Recommendation: Avoidance, mitigation and compensation. Design to avoid sensitive features and tree removals, consideration for buffers, minimize construction footprint and re-vegetate, standard ESC measures and tree protection fencing, recommendations for Howitt Creek and further assessment as well as native landscape
- Enhancement measures – restoration plantings, interpretative signage, common reed removal, installation of turtle nesting habitat
- Adele Labbe, Environmental Planner with the City of Guelph, provided some feedback from Environmental Planning perspective and reviewed her comments
- Discussion around separating traffic and formalizing already existing footpath
- Discussion around Active Transportation Network and on road/off road options
- Discussion around driveway expansion – was considered but not ideal
- Discussion around where trail ends and crossing issues, as well as interference with Howitt Creek

Moved by Kendall Flower and seconded by Beth Anne Fischer,

THAT the meeting be extended to 6:15 pm.

**Motion Carried
Unanimous**

RSAC went into committee to discuss.

Moved by Ryan VanEngen and seconded by Nicola Lower,

THAT The River Systems Advisory Committee conditionally supports the City's Silvercreek West Trail project and the Draft EIS by MMM Group provided:

- That the EIS be updated to include the mapped Natural Heritage System including buffers and locations of confirmed and candidate SWH;
- That the 20 m buffer that was established through the Skateboard is recognized and its preservation maximized;
- That consideration be given to separating foot traffic from bike traffic through recognition of the existing informal footpath, and to consider reduced path width and alternative surfacing (paved vs. unpaved);
- That the area to be cut by Hydro for maintenance be identified in the EIS and considered in terms of the proposed alignment;
- That the design consider the spring high groundwater table, especially in relation to the 'offshoot' trail;
- That recommendations for turtle nesting habitat design and placement, as well as further consideration for nesting waterfowl be provided in the EIS;
- That the existing footpath is characterized and its existing use considered in the impact analysis and evaluation of alternatives;
- That consideration be given to the trail design in terms of reducing the width of the trail in areas that are appropriate (i.e., offshoot trail, etc.);
- That consideration be given to avoiding the trail west of Howitt Creek until such time that the future trail alignment is determined and further ecological study is completed including restoration opportunities for Howitt Creek; and
- That the project be brought back to an RSAC meeting at a further stage of the design.

**Motion Carried
Unanimous**

EnviroGuide Presentation

Adele Labbe explained the project to the River Systems Advisory Committee and asked for feedback.

Approval of minutes from 2016 meetings:

Moved by Nicola Lower and Ryan VanEngen,

THAT the minutes from the May 18, 2016 meeting be approved.

Moved by Beth Anne Fischer and seconded by Nicola Lower,

THAT the minutes from the November 16, 2016 meeting be approved.

	Moved by Ryan VanEngen and seconded by Beth Anne Fischer, THAT the minutes from the December 15, 2016 meeting be approved.
3.	Next meeting of RSAC will be March 15, 2017
4.	Adjourn Moved by Kendall Flower and seconded by Jesse VanPatter, The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimous