

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING DATE	River Systems Advisory Committee April 19, 2017
LOCATION TIME	City Hall - Meeting Room B 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Mariette Pushkar (Chair), Nicola Lower, Beth Anne Fischer, Jesse VanPatter, Barry Smith
EXTERNAL GROUPS	Steve Chippis – Amec Foster & Wheeler, Jennifer Henshaw – Matrix Solutions, Cam Port – Cam Port & Associates
STAFF PRESENT	April Nix, Madeleine Myhill, Arun Hindupur
MEMBERS ABSENT	Javier Acosta, Kendall Flower, Eric Wilson, Ryan VanEngen

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 RSAC member – Barry Smith▪ Declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest - None▪ Adoption of March meeting minutes
2	<p>Agenda:</p> <p>York Road Environmental Design Study Environmental Impact Study, March 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April Nix presented images and reviewed the staff report providing feedback and comments from Environmental Planning perspective• The TOR was brought to RSAC in January 2016• City has initiated the York Road Environmental Design Study to assist with the implementation of the recommendations stemming from the 2007 York Road Improvements Class Environmental Assessment• The study will be focusing on the development of a preliminary road design and a preliminary design for the realignment of Clythe Creek• Several environmental considerations as well as cultural heritage resources

Discussion with staff and the Committee:

- Questions raised around the role and requirements of MTO – York Road is a City owned road but is a MTO connecting link for Highway 7
- Concerns regarding existing upstream impacts from development and storm water management facilities
- Climate change implications for urban areas – in light of climate change should the restoration goal for Clythe Creek be to restore a coldwater system, and is it achievable? With climate change implications restoration of cold water systems is even more imperative as these types of systems will be under even greater pressures/stress
- Need to ensure that further developments do not impact Clythe Creek through the City's GID Plan
- Discussion regarding different alignment options for Clythe Creek not included in the EIS – including: rerouting the creek through the southern reformatory pond and making the pond a wetland: keeping Hadati disconnected from Clythe Creek
- Fish including trout will not get up with artificial weirs
- Water quality concerns in light of more severe weather events – existing conditions already show signs of siltation issues.
- Discussion around the realignment of Hadati Creek – how much is feasible given the small reach of the creek in the scope of the project.
- Climate change and hydrology implications need to be given more consideration

Discussion with Consultants and the Committee:

- Many facets to consider – cultural heritage and environmental
- Arun Hindupur introduced consultants
- Detailed Environmental Design Strategy was not included in EA
- Presented EA findings and recommendations image which were also presented at PIC #1
- Clythe Creek impacted by development and headwater characterized as coldwater that sustains a trout population. It has been highly altered with many cultural heritage implications and is classified and characterized as a coolwater stream
- Geomorphology Characterization Methods – Jennifer Henshaw spoke to their review and discussed past documents and recent findings relating to Clythe Creek
- Questions from Committee and discussion around flow and study times – other study opportunities to address concerns in terms of flow data that could be added in motion or during detailed design
- Profile survey and bankfull cross sections shown which is helpful but lack of understanding on the interface with other elements (like the multi-use path)
- Attempts have been made to unplug the partially existing plugged culverts on the reformatory lands with varying degrees of success, and the Eramosa overflow culvert from the Southern reformatory pond to the Eramosa river is partially collapsed
- Fish communities – coldwater stream, trout stream (described) in previous studies, but no evidence of trout in this stream since 1953. Temperature data gathered does indicate coldwater conditions in portions of Clythe Creek

- Removal of barriers to allow and support movement of fish. Trout Unlimited is supportive of removal of barriers as part of a broader restoration initiative for Clyde Creek
- Report from fisheries standpoint – whole series of barriers and isolated sections, questions regarding fish community further up Creek. MNRFP records do indicate presence of mottled sculpin
- Reviewed development of channel alignment alternatives – considerations for alternative impacts on the form and function of channel and constraints: gradient, cost implications, Eramosa River and connection opportunities given existing infrastructure
- Option 1 “Do Nothing” focuses on keeping cultural heritage features in situ and would have significant environmental impacts that are not explained in the report
- Option 2 “Improved Form and Function” includes full realignment bringing channel away from York Rd and eliminating barriers to upstream fish passage while protecting cultural heritage features in place, but taken offline (no water over features) up to the Hadati Creek confluence
- Option 3 “Ultimate Improvement to Form and Function” very similar to Option 2 – but includes a realignment of the creek to restore and improve the connection/confluence with the Eramosa River
- Presented photos of current condition of creek
- Heritage features could have some flow over them during high flow times based on current design alternatives
- Reviewed cross sections of realignment options
- Existing culverts are inadequate in terms of size and need to be replaced
- Discussion around the multi-use pathway options and potential constraints
- Discussion around the exploration of other opportunities not presented to preserve and enhance features and habitat
- Concerns raised regarding Hadati Creek realignments would not address thermal impacts Hadati Creek is having on Clyde Creek, nor does it provide a rationale for the location of the Eramosa connection
- Discussion around water quality improvement measures and the need for recommendations in the plan, including those for additional monitoring

Moved by Nicola Lower and seconded by Beth Anne Fischer,

THAT the meeting be extended to 6:05 p.m.

**Motion Carried
Unanimous**

Moved by Barry Smith and seconded by Jesse VanPatter,

THAT the River System Advisory Committee conditionally support the selection of Option 3 as the preferred stream channel alignment for the York Road Environmental Design Study providing the following are incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Study

(EIS), including:

- Clarification on restoration goals as it pertains to fish habitat and stream channel design and how the proposed Option 3 achieves these goals; with additional effort to further enhance the restoration potential of the area (e.g., water quality, aquatic habitat, terrestrial habitat) and to explore additional creek alignments
- Incorporation of timing window recommendations for both terrestrial and aquatic species; and,
- Recommendations for enhancement for the areas existing stream bed to be taken off line that are compatible with the protection of cultural heritage features including bank treatments;
- Preliminary grading design information for the preferred multi-use pathway option
- Address items previously identified by RSAC within the January 2016 motion.

THAT a revised EIS be brought back to the committee with additional detail, including updates to the impact assessment, policy analysis and recommendations sections that address:

- Avoidance measures, an analysis regarding buffers, invasive species, bio salvage opportunities, and also consider the time period associated with impacts;
- Construction mitigation measures
- Preliminary multi-use pathway centre line elevations, linear slopes, and anticipated extents of side slopes.
- Recommendations for maintaining stream flows through construction
- A summary of any additional field study recommendations to be completed through detail design; and,
- Recommendations for monitoring to be completed through detail design, during construction, as well as post construction monitoring and include recommendations regarding effectiveness monitoring.

Motion Carried
Unanimous

Approval of March 15, 2017 meeting minutes:

Deferred to the next meeting.

3.	Next meeting of RSAC will be May 17, 2017
4.	Adjourn Moved by Nicola Lower and seconded by Beth Anne Fischer , The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimous