Technical Memorandum

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From: Bill Banks

Re: Hydrogeological Investigation, Proposed Cityview Ridge Development, City of Guelph

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This Technical Memorandum presents the results of a hydrogeological investigation completed for the above-referenced proposed development. It has been updated to include an additional parcel of land that has been incorporated into the draft site plan. The site is located immediately northwest of the intersection of York Road and Watson Parkway, adjacent to Cityview Drive, and north of the Canadian National Railway, in the City of Guelph. This hydrogeological investigation was required to support pre- and post-development water balance calculations, by providing estimates of current on-site infiltration of precipitation and groundwater discharge to an on-site wetland and adjacent creek. The results of this investigation and the interpretation of hydrogeological conditions are provided for inclusion or reference in an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for this proposed development. The hydrogeological investigation included the following tasks:

- Review of available information including: draft site plan, previous geotechnical investigation data, published geology maps and reports, City of Guelph groundwater study reports, aerial photography, wetland mapping and analyses, and stormwater management plans
- Site reconnaissance
- Installation of shallow piezometers at three locations adjacent to an on-site wetland and creek
- Subsequent monitoring of groundwater levels to determine hydraulic gradients and evaluate groundwater flows to the on-site wetland and adjacent creek
- Monitoring of groundwater levels in existing on-site monitoring wells
- Analysis of the results of the background review, groundwater monitoring and the local hydrogeological conditions
- Analysis of groundwater levels to establish depths to water table, directions and rates of groundwater flow, the need for stormwater management systems, and the interaction of groundwater and the wetland
- Consideration and evaluation of source water protection related to the municipal wells.

Presented below is a summary of the geology and hydrogeology of the area in which the site is located, followed by the results of the groundwater monitoring, and analysis of groundwater recharge and discharge in relation to the wetland.

Surficial Geology

The study site is situated within the Guelph Drumlin Fields physiographic region, as defined by Chapman and Putnam (1984). The Guelph Drumlin Field consists of a series of northwest-southeast trending drumlins that are regionally situated to the northwest of the Paris Moraine. The drumlins are characterized by a series of elongated oval-shaped hills. The topography of the local area is dominated by three closely-spaced drumlins. The proposed residential development area of the site is located on the southern end of the middle drumlin. The eastern part of the site encompasses the slope of the drumlin and lower lying areas. Multiple residential development is proposed for the easternmost part of the site adjacent to Watson Parkway North.

The drumlins in the Guelph Drumlin Field are comprised of a sandy facies (up to 40 percent sand) of the Port Stanley Till, which is typically a silt to sandy silt till (Karrow, 1968, 1987). The overburden deposits in the lower areas comprise a series of terraced deposits of glacial outwash (sand and gravel) and lacustrine (sand) materials. Wetland areas are generally found associated with the glacial outwash deposits within these lower lying areas. A wetland occurs in the south-eastern area of the site at the base of the drumlin, and is interpreted to drain to the adjacent Clythe Creek.

The results of a previous geotechnical investigation of this site, which included drilling and soil sampling at 10 locations on-site, confirmed the shallow soils on the drumlin comprise a sandy silt till and the shallow soils in the eastern part of the site comprise sand and gravel (Naylor Engineering Associates, 2006).

Overburden Hydrogeology

Groundwater occurs within the bedrock formations and overburden deposits throughout the region and flows horizontally and vertically under hydraulic gradients. The rate of groundwater flow is dependent on the hydraulic conductivity of the deposits and formations, as well as the magnitude of the local and regional hydraulic gradients. The rate of groundwater flow is typically very slow relative to the flow of surface water in creeks, streams, and rivers.

Groundwater flow in the local area is interpreted to be southerly towards discharge to the Eramosa River, which is about 700 metres south of the site. A component of localized groundwater flow on-site is expected to be south-easterly towards discharge to the wetland and Clythe Creek.

Drumlins comprising a silt to sandy silt glacial till typically have limited intergranular porosity and hydraulic conductivity. These deposits do not transmit water readily and will likely act to limit the flow of groundwater. The logs of the eight boreholes drilled on the drumlin indicate the sandy silt till increased in density with depth, with borehole depths ranging from 5.7 to 11.1 metres. Given the characteristics of the drumlin at this site it is interpreted that a limited amount of precipitation infiltrates in the upland portion and to a lesser extent along the slopes. This infiltration would recharge the local groundwater system, but it is expected that most of this shallow groundwater would flow towards the sand and gravel deposits situated around the southerly and easterly base of the drumlin. Infiltration in the area of the sand and gravel surficial deposits would be significantly greater. Groundwater flow in the sand and gravel deposits on-site is interpreted to be southerly towards discharge to the wetland and Clythe Creek. Groundwater seeps were observed at several locations up-gradient of the wetland.

Groundwater Monitoring

To confirm the occurrence of groundwater flow and discharge to the wetland located in the southeast area of the site, shallow piezometers were installed at two locations (Refer to Plates 1 and 2). Shallow piezometers were also installed at a third location to determine if shallow groundwater discharge was occurring adjacent to Clythe Creek along the southern boundary of the

site (Refer to Plate 3). The locations were selected during a site reconnaissance in early May 2009, when the groundwater seeps were visible and the area upgradient of the wetland was saturated.

At each site the piezometers were installed in pairs, with one set at a shallow depth (about 0.5 m) and another at an intermediate depth (about 1.1 m), to provide for measurement of the vertical hydraulic gradient at various times. Groundwater levels were measured in each piezometer and recorded relative to adjacent ground surface on three occasions: 13 and 25 May, and 4 June 2009.

Plate 1: Piezometer Station 1

Plate 2: Piezometer Station 2

On each occasion the monitoring confirmed groundwater discharge conditions adjacent to the wetland and upgradient. Confirmation of local groundwater discharge to the wetland is based on the observation of groundwater seeps along the upgradient slope on the north edge of the wetland on each monitoring occasion. Shallow groundwater flow to the wetland is also confirmed by the groundwater levels in piezometers that were observed at or just above ground surface. An upward gradient was not observed, as the groundwater level in the intermediate piezometer was below the adjacent groundwater level in the shallow piezometer. This would indicate that the upgradient

groundwater seeps, combined with shallow groundwater flow along the fringe of the wetland are both important in terms of maintaining water levels in the wetland. These observations demonstrated the wetland's dependence on groundwater flow during this monitoring period.

Plate 3: Piezometer Station 3

The third pair of shallow piezometers located along the southern edge of the site, just west of the Clythe Creek culvert under the railway, indicated groundwater was at a depth of 1.2 m on 13 May, but declined below the intermediate piezometer soon after. The shallow piezometer was dry on each occasion. The monitoring confirmed there was no shallow groundwater discharge at this location on these occasions. It is however possible that groundwater is discharging directly to Clythe Creek in this area.

These monitoring results confirm that the shallow groundwater system was discharging to the wetland along the base of the drumlin during the mid- to late-spring 2009 monitoring period. It is expected that these conditions would occur each spring; however, due to the limited period of monitoring it is uncertain if these discharge conditions continue during drier seasonal periods.

Groundwater levels were also measured in each of the 10 on-site monitoring wells on 13 May 2009. At five locations pairs of monitoring wells were installed in the same borehole to provide for measurement of the vertical hydraulic gradient at various times. Groundwater elevations were representative of spring levels, with depths to groundwater ranging from 0.5 to 1.6 metres below ground surface in the seven shallow monitors (i.e. completed at depths less than 4.0 m). Groundwater levels ranged from 0.5 to 6.8 metres below ground surface in the eight deeper monitors. The lowest groundwater elevation occurred in the central part of the site in the deepest monitor, which is completed at a depth of about 10 metres at the crest of the southern slope of the drumlin. Groundwater elevations in the shallow monitors confirm groundwater flow directions are radial from the top of the drumlin towards the base (i.e. ranging from southwest to east). A comparison of shallow and deeper groundwater elevations indicates a downward hydraulic gradient in the drumlin, as would be expected.

Groundwater Recharge and Discharge

Based on a review of local geology and hydrogeology and the results of the shallow groundwater monitoring, it is evident that there is limited groundwater recharge on the drumlin that dominates much of the site. It is interpreted that the rate of groundwater recharge and flow is more significant in the lower-lying, eastern part of the site, where the outwash sand and gravel deposit occurs at surface. The limited amount of groundwater that discharges along the eastern base of the drumlin likely flows through the outwash deposit, eventually discharging into the on-site wetland. It is further interpreted that a portion of the surface water runoff from up the slope and on the top of the drumlin also flows to the wetland.

The average annual precipitation has been estimated from an averaging of precipitation normals from meteorological stations in Guelph and the surrounding area, for the period 1971 to 2000. The average annual precipitation, for the area in which the study site is located, is estimated to be about 925 mm. It has also been estimated that the average annual evapotranspiration for this area is about 555 mm; however, evapotranspiration rates across a site will vary in relation to the depth to water table, soil texture, topography, extent of vegetation cover, and type of vegetation. Based on the results of research conducted in other parts of the Eramosa River and Speed River subwatersheds, estimates of evapotranspiration rates can be made for this site. It is estimated that evapotranspiration rates on the drumlin will average about 555 mm/year, whereas in the well-drained outwash sand and gravel deposit the rate is estimated to be about 495 mm/year. The net water available for infiltration and surface runoff is 370 mm on the drumlin and 430 mm in the sand and gravel area, on an annual average basis.

For the purpose of estimating recharge to the groundwater system, on and adjacent to the drumlin, that maintains discharge to the wetland, it is estimated that the average annual groundwater recharge on the drumlin under current conditions is 180 mm. The remaining 190 mm is the average annual surface runoff. These estimates are based on previous analyses completed for developments in Guelph where drumlins exist. The average annual rate of recharge in the eastern sand and gravel area is estimated to be as high as 380 mm, with the remaining 50 mm allocated to surface runoff.

The total area of the subject lands comprises 17.682 ha. However, a total area of 18.28 ha has been used for the purposes of a water budget, which includes the southern section of Cityview Drive. Reference should be made to the site description and maps included in the Preliminary Servicing and Stormwater Management Report (Gamsby and Mannerow Limited, 2012). The western and central parts of the development site (i.e. on top of the drumlins and on the western slope, which includes Catchments 10 and 20 of the existing conditions drainage area) represents an area of 11.80 ha. Accounting for no infiltration on a 0.56 ha impervious area within this part of the site, the average annual rate of recharge on this part of the site under existing conditions is estimated to be 20 230 m^3/year. It is interpreted that the recharge in this part of the site maintains local groundwater levels and groundwater flow in the overburden deposits in a southerly direction from the site.

The eastern 6.48 ha of the site (i.e. Catchment 30 of the existing conditions drainage area) comprises an area of about 2.1 ha along the eastern slope of the drumlin and about 4.38 ha in the sand and gravel outwash deposit area. Accounting for these areas and the differences in surficial soil types and slopes, the average annual rate of recharge in the eastern part of the site is estimated to be 20 420 m^3/year. It is interpreted that much of the recharge occurring in the eastern part of the site would maintain the shallow groundwater discharging to the wetland and Clythe Creek. The net total recharge for the site under existing conditions is therefore estimated to be about 40 650 m^3/year.

Surface water runoff onsite under existing conditions is estimated to be about 31 600 m^3/year, of which 25 420 m^3/year occurs in the western and central parts of the site (i.e. Catchments 10 and 20), and 6 180 m^3/year occurs in the eastern part of the site (i.e. Catchment 30).

Stormwater Management

It is understood that stormwater management facilities will be designed to manage surface water runoff in the developed areas of the site (i.e. post-development catchments 100, 201, and 202). Based on the proposed development plan, groundwater recharge and surface water runoff on the eastern slope of the drumlin and within the eastern part of the site are expected to remain unchanged following development. The multiple residential development within a 0.68 ha area of the north-eastern part of the site will require separate stormwater management facilities designed to maintain the current rate of groundwater recharge in this area that will contribute to discharge to the wetland located on-site and to Clythe Creek.

The remaining part of the eastern low-lying area is to remain in the current natural state and it is expected that stormwater management in this area is not required. It can therefore be concluded that surface water runoff and shallow groundwater flow in the undeveloped area will continue to contribute to the maintenance of the wetland and flow in Clythe Creek.

Source Water Protection

The Grand River Source Protection Area Draft Amended Assessment Report (Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, 2011) includes mapping of Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) and Groundwater Vulnerability for the City of Guelph Municipal Well System. There are currently several municipal wells in the northeast part of Guelph and the mapping indicates part of the proposed residential development site is located within the WHPA-B zone (i.e. 2-year time-of-travel capture zone) for one or more of these wells. The Groundwater Vulnerability mapping indicates the site is located in an area with a vulnerability score that ranges from a value of 6 (i.e. medium) to a value of 10 (i.e. the highest value). It is therefore apparent that there may be source water protection implications related to this proposed development. Various measures may be required to manage the risk of potential threats to groundwater quality, such as on-going educational measures directed at residents regarding the Province's ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides.

Summary

On the basis of an assessment of current site conditions, the net total average annual, pre-development, groundwater recharge for the site is estimated to be about 40 650 m^3/year. It is estimated that the average annual rate of recharge to the groundwater system in the western and central parts of the site, comprising an area of 11.80 ha (i.e. Catchments 10 and 20), is 20 230 m^3/year. It is also estimated that the average annual rate of recharge to the groundwater system in the eastern 6.48 ha of the site, including part of the eastern slope of the drumlin (i.e. Catchment 30), is 20 420 m^3/year.

It is interpreted that much of the recharge in the eastern area currently maintains the shallow groundwater discharging to the wetland and Clythe Creek occurring in the south-eastern part of the site. Under the proposed development, only a limited area along the top of the eastern slope of the drumlin will be developed for residential use and most of this area will comprise rear yards. Groundwater recharge along most of the eastern slope of the drumlin is expected to remain unchanged. Groundwater recharge within the remaining eastern part of the site should also remain unchanged as much of this area will not be developed.

The proposed multiple residential lands within a 0.68 ha area of the north-eastern part of the site will require stormwater management facilities designed to maintain the current rate of groundwater

recharge in this area. Groundwater discharge to the wetland located on-site and to Clythe Creek should therefore continue to be maintained following the proposed development of this site.

Based on recent Source Water Protection mapping for the City of Guelph municipal well system, it is apparent that there may be source water protection implications related to this proposed development. Various measures may be required to manage the risk of potential threats to groundwater quality, and these will be explored as part of the detailed Environmental Implementation Report.

References

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Respectfully submitted,
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