

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE	River Systems Advisory Committee March 15, 2017
LOCATION TIME	City Hall - Meeting Room B 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Nicola Lower (Chair), Mariette Pushkar, Beth Anne Fischer, Kendall Flower, Jesse VanPatter, Eric Wilson
EXTERNAL GROUPS	Jack Turner, GM Blue Plan, Arnie Fausto, Matrix Solutions
STAFF PRESENT	April Nix, Adele Labbe, Madeleine Myhill, Tiffany Brule
MEMBERS ABSENT	Javier Acosta, 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 ▪ Declaration of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest Mariette Pushkar – Downtown Pedestrian Bridges (Preferred Alternative) ▪ Adoption of February meeting minutes
2	<p>Agenda:</p> <p>Crane Park EIS TOR Arnie Fausto, Matrix Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April Nix, Environmental Planner with the City, provided background on the project and reviewed her presentation • Intent is to formalize the trail network through Crane Park which was also identified in the 2005 Trail Master Plan • Proposal from neighbourhood residents to add a crossing (bridge) over a tributary within Crane Park was brought forward to Council in 2015 • An image of study area from TOR was presented • Background Review Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study area includes Natural Heritage System: Speed River Provincially Significant Wetland (swamp); Significant Woodlands; Fish Habitat, Speed River (managed as cold water) on site tributary (not thermally classified); Significant Valleyland (Speed River); Significant Wildlife Habitat (known for waterfowl overwintering, candidate for others.

- Locally rare flora and fauna species observed in the area (Niska Rd EA)
- Site is within the Speed River Subwatershed (tributary drains to the Speed River), but is in close proximity to the main channel of Hanlon Creek as well
- Map presented highlighting some of the features and constraints
- EIS TOR Scope Summary:
 - Ground water conditions assessment will provide baseline characterization of ground water conditions to help inform stream classification and impact analysis, will include spot base flow and monitoring via mini piezometers
 - Surface water conditions assessment will include thermal characterization of the tributary, identify fish habitat, complete a rapid geomorphic assessment and rapid stream assessment for the tributary
 - Terrestrial ecology will include ELC, 3 season floristic survey, tree inventory, winter assessment (birds), breeding bird surveys and habitat characterization for bat maternity roosts
- April Nix provided feedback from an environmental planning perspective and reviewed her comments
- General discussion took place:
 - The wetland does need to be field verified this year
 - No recent water quality data
 - GRCA will be doing their own management plan for their property
 - City would like to have trail linkages, but cannot provide trail system on land that is not owned by the City of Guelph
 - Discussion around fish habitat and sampling – this is currently outside of the scope, but there is evidence of fish present
 - Discussion around surface water workplan and geomorphic level
 - Discussion around existing stormwater system and understanding the origin (ponds) feeding this system

The RSAC went into committee to discuss.

Moved by Mariette Pushkar and seconded by Beth Anne Fischer,

THAT The River Systems Advisory Committee conditionally support the City's EIS TOR for the Crane Park project provided that:

- **Clarity around the locations of breeding bird and floristic surveys be provided;**
- **Clarify potential habitat for area sensitive breeding birds;**
- **Clarify potential habitat for terrestrial crayfish;**
- **Incorporate Ebird records into the background review/species records;**
- **Clarify that the impact analysis of the EIS will include consideration for buffers;**
- **and,**
- **Clarify that the EIS will look at possible crossing location(s) for the tributary and the SWM channel will be looked at.**

**Motion Carried
Unanimous**

**Downtown Pedestrian Bridges
Class Environmental Assessment
Jack Turner, GM BluePlan**

- Public consultation is completed and preferred alternatives have been identified
- Two preferred alternatives identified for bridge locations, which has provided for efficiency in planning
- Map with preferred alternatives and study areas presented – does not include detailed design at this stage
- Preferred Alternative 1 lines up with existing trail along the Guelph Junction Railway and is also the historic location
- Preferred Alternative 2 lines up with main drive into the Metalworks site and is visible from Arthur Street
- Removal of some vegetation for Alternative 2 (mostly invasive)
- Alternative 5 part of original study and screened out due to impact and location
- Presented and discussed cross sections of alternative 1 and 2
- Presented cross sections and explained alternative 3 and 4 (not preferred as access ramps would interfere with riverwalk and planned bioswales)
- Alternative 3 rated best for cultural heritage and archaeological factors. This alternative also most preferable for erosion and fish habitat based on the effect it would have on super critical flows. Alternative 3 bridge interfere with flow and moves it further upstream, which is good.
- Adele Labbe provided feedback from an environmental planning perspective and reviewed her comments
- Number 6 in previous motion not addressed
- Discussion around the removal of the sewer line – currently in use and not part of this project – separate project for decommissioning this in the future

The RSAC went into committee to discuss.

Moved by Jesse Van Patter and seconded by Kendall Flower,

THAT The River Systems Advisory Committee supports the recommendations of the Ward to Downtown Bridges Class Environmental Assessment Project File (Schedule B) prepared by GM Blue Plan and dated Feb 6, 2017 and associated technical studies, including the recommended preferred alternatives 1 and 2.

THAT The River Systems Advisory Committee recommends that the City include restoration of the Natural Heritage System (focussed on vegetation communities) along the entire west valley slope of the Speed River within the Study Area into the detailed design phase of the Environmental Assessment for Bridge 1 by including an invasive species management and restoration plan in the scope of the project.

THAT The River Systems Advisory Committee requests that the detailed design phases of the Environmental Assessment return to committee for review and input.

THAT Alternative 2 design does not rely on the existing retaining wall, so that opportunities

	<p>exist in the future for the wall removal and bank ecological improvements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried Unanimous</p> <p>Approval of February 15, 2017 meeting minutes:</p> <p>Moved by Jesse VanPatter and seconded by Kendall Flower,</p> <p>THAT the minutes from the February 15, 2017 meeting be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried Unanimous</p>
3.	<p>Next meeting of RSAC will be April 19, 2017</p>
4.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Moved by Beth Anne Fischer and seconded by Mariette Pushkar,</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried Unanimous</p>