

Medway Valley Heritage Forest (MVHF) Environmentally Significant Area (ESA), Conservation Master Plan (CMP) – Phase 1 (Natural Heritage Inventory & Evaluation)

Public Information Centre (PIC) Meeting #1 – July.25.2013

Held by Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) and the City of London (City)

Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Jonathan Harris, Dillon

Q = Question, A = Answer, C = Comment

Medway Creek Subwatershed Study Update PIC #2 Presentation

The Medway Creek Subwatershed Study Update (SSU) PIC #2 took place before the MVHF ESA PIC. This PIC was also held by Dillon and the City from 18:00 to 19:30. The SSU PIC presentation was focused on the hydrology, hydraulics, morphology and stability. The presentation was given by Brian Houston of Dillon. Natural heritage, while covered in the SSU reporting, was not presented at the PIC. Only questions and answers relevant to the MVHF ESA work are presented in these minutes.

Q – Does the SSU cover non-traditional causes of erosion or changes in slope stability (e.g. decks, pools, trails) or will the MVHF ESA Inventory and Evaluation? (Asked during the question period)

A – Aspects of erosion or slope stability will be covered in the SSU.

MVHF ESA PIC Boards were available for viewing - 19:30 – 21:00

The public were able to fill out comment sheets relating to the SSU after the presentation and before the MVHF ESA PIC presentation. Twelve boards relating to the MVHF ESA PIC presentation were put out for the public to view before the presentation began at 19:45.

MVHF ESA PIC #1 Presentation – 19:45 – 20:45

The presentation for the MVHF ESA PIC took place at 19:45 and consisted of a quick introduction to the project by Andrew Macpherson (City) followed by a brief explanation of the Conservation Master Plan process by Linda McDougall (City). The MVHF ESA PIC presentation was given by Jennifer Petruniak (Dillon) and covered the project timelines, methodology, and results to date. Below are questions, answers and comments that came up throughout the presentation and the question period that followed.

*A number of people in attendance were there to voice their opinions about a proposed development at 161 Windemere Road. Only questions, answers, comments related to the work being conducted by Dillon for the MVHF ESA Natural Heritage Inventory and Evaluation are presented below.

Q – How are ESA boundary lines determined? (Asked during Introduction given by the City)
A – The boundaries are driven by ecology and science. The City has guidelines that provide criteria for refining an ESA boundary.
Q – How do you validate ELC boundaries without access (e.g. UWO land)? (Asked during ELC slide)
A – The private lands where access is not permitted at the time of the surveys is hatched out on the maps and won't be fully validated until access is granted.
Q – Do we have salamanders in this part of the world? (Asked during Methodology slide)
A – Yes, salamanders are present in Ontario. The amphibian slide will cover this.
C – There are some spots in the valley where the salamanders are very abundant, up to 100 in one spot (said during Amphibian slide)
Q – Are swallows/swifts breeding? (Asked during bird slide)
A – Barn Swallow and Chimney Swift were only observed foraging over the ESA, no evidence of breeding within the ESA has been found to date(e.g. nests).
C –When original studies were done, those “19” new species may not have been picked up (reference to Butterflies section)
C – Has additional records w/photos for Medway area. Will provide.
Q – Will there be inventories of Aquatic species such as mussels? (asked during Question period)
A – No, there is recent data that has been acquired from the UTRCA regarding aquatic species
Q - When was the last aquatics inventory completed? (asked during Question period)
A – Don't have the exact year, will have to look up. Definitely within the 2000's which when dealing with mussels, is very recent.
Q – Are you completing specific surveys for Hibernacula? (asked during Question period)
A – No, specific surveys targeting potential Hibernacula will not be part of this inventory. Occurrences of reptiles will be incidental.
Q – What are most recent aerial images that can be used for the study? (asked during Question period)
A – 2012 images are being used at the moment but it is expected that 2013 aerials will become available sometime in September

Q – How will ESA boundary revision occur where access was not permitted on private lands? (asked during Question period)
A – Revision's will be done at the desktop level using the most recent aerial images.
Q – Will the maps and presentation/boards be available to the public? (asked during Question period)
A – Yes, not right away but mapping and presentation will be available on the City website at a later time. Presentation and boards will be available to those who attended PIC.
Q – Will there be quantitative sampling/analysis? (asked during Question period)
A – Yes, there will be some analysis for invasive species, Species at Risk, large trees and significant plant communities.
Q – How will we know what are invasive species? (asked during Question period)
A – There is lots of literature regarding invasive species available to the public. Some literature is available next to the sign-in sheet.

After the question period was completed (19:45) the public was asked to fill out comment sheets/observation sheets or place their observations onto the large aerial images with sticky notes. Dillon and City staff was available after to answer any remaining questions.