

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

REPORT NO. GM-12-08-58

DATE: December 12, 2008

TO: Members of the Grand River Conservation Authority

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessments

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information Only

SUMMARY:

To provide the Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority with information on Environmental Assessments being reviewed, a summary report is presented below. The report has been prepared as directed through Motion No. P44-99 (May 18/99) adopted through General Membership Res. No. 55-99 (May 28, 1999).

REPORT:

Report on Environmental Assessments for December 12, 2008

A. New Environmental Assessments Received

New: Environmental Assessments received by the Grand River Conservation Authority and currently under review.

1. **First Notice - Region of Waterloo - Fischer-Hallman Road Improvements, Ottawa Street to Bleams Road, City of Kitchener**

The Region of Waterloo is undertaking a study under Schedule C of the Class Environmental Assessment process which will address infrastructure improvements on Fischer-Hallman Road from Ottawa Street to Bleams Road in the City of Kitchener. The study will consider various alternatives for road improvements and investigate measures to address poor pavement and drainage conditions, profile deficiencies, the need to incorporate servicing within the right of way, and potential traffic capacity deficiencies.

The study area contains or is immediately adjacent to a number of regulated features including floodplain, a portion of the Laurentian West Wetland Complex, as well as a watercourse.

As the project is within an area of interest, the Grand River Conservation Authority has requested continued involvement with this project.

2. **First Notice – Region of Waterloo, Waterloo North Water Supply Class Environmental Assessment**

The Region of Waterloo has identified the need for additional groundwater and is undertaking a Schedule C Class EA to restore existing well supply and to identify possible new water supply sources within the Waterloo North Study area. The Urban

System Groundwater Optimization Study (2006) identified the study area as having potential to produce high yields of water.

The study area contains a number of regulated features including floodplain, the provincially significant Sunfish Lake - Laurel Creek Wetland Complex, a number of creeks including Monastery, Beaver, Clair and Cedar Creek. Reaches of Laurel Creek which have been identified as coldwater are also located within the study area.

As the project is within an area of interest, the Grand River Conservation Authority has been invited to sit on the Technical Stakeholders group meetings.

3. **First Notice – City of Hamilton Cycling Master Plan – “Shifting Gears”**
The City of Hamilton has submitted notice of commencement for a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for a city-wide cycling master plan. Staff have indicated we have an interest in participating in the study process.
4. **First Notice - Schedule ‘C’ Municipal Class Environmental Assessment
City of Waterloo Assessment of Road Improvements on University Avenue**
The Grand River Conservation Authority received notice that the City of Waterloo is initiating a Schedule ‘C’ Municipal Environmental Assessment (EA) to examine road improvements along a section of University Avenue between Bridge Street West and Lexington Road.

Portions of this section of University Avenue are flanked by steep slopes and the regulated area surrounding the provincially significant Melitzer Creek Wetland Complex. A bridge crossing a tributary of the Grand River in the northern portion of this area may also be involved in this study. The Grand River Conservation Authority has requested continued involvement with this project.

5. **First Notice - Region of Waterloo, Baden – New Hamburg Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update Class EA, Township of Wilmot**
The Regional Municipality of Waterloo has initiated a Water and Wastewater Master Plan Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Update for the communities of Baden and New Hamburg. Since recent changes have occurred in both planning policies and regulations, this study will re-examine and review the future servicing requirements of these communities and update the previously completed Master Plan of 1996. The master plan update is being developed under the Municipal Class EA procedures under Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. Under these procedures, master plans satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Class EA process.

The study area is traversed by the Nith River and its tributaries and their associated floodplains. There are also steep valley and hazard slopes in the study area. Further, there are also a number of Provincially Significant and locally significant wetlands within the study limits. These areas are of interest to the Grand River Conservation Authority.

As the project is within an area of interest, the Grand River Conservation Authority has requested continued involvement with this project.

B. Classification of Reviewed Environmental Assessments

Minor: Minimal potential resource impacts that can be mitigated using conventional construction methods.

Major: Significant impacts on identified resource features. Alternatives and proposed mitigation will be outlined in detail.

Minor Impacts – None for this report

Major Impacts – None for this report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Not Applicable

OTHER DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATIONS: Not Applicable

Presented By:

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