

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS
THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE ROOM #304

AUGUST 7, 2018

2:00 p.m. The meeting convened with Mayor Heather Jackson, Chair presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Mayor H. Jackson, Chair
Betsy McClure, KCCA
Harald Schraeder
Richard Singer
J. Lawrence, Director, Env. Services

Officials

M. Smale, Corporate Admin. Clerk
W. Graves, City Manager

Others

Dave Collins, 166 Lake Margaret Trail
Kevin McLoed, 9 Beechwood Circle

Regrets

J. Tucker, Arborist
Petrusia Hontar

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Motion by H. Schraeder - Mayor Jackson:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on July 12, 2018 be confirmed.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview of Planning Department

The City Manager advised that the Director of Planning and Building Services was unavailable to attend the meeting.

The members agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

Overview of Eames Drain

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer displayed a map of the existing Eames drain, the route of the new proposed drain and the cost apportionment process under the drainage act.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that Dillion Consulting, has recommended that the existing Eames drain be abandoned as it was partially filled and that a new drain be installed following a similar path to drain lands south of Southdale into the Lake Margaret wetland area.

Mr. Schraeder stated that, in his opinion, engineer reports for works approved under the Drainage Act are not required to take into consideration environmental impacts to the same comprehensive degree as are stormwater management plans, for example, approved under the Planning Act and Ontario Water Resources Act which require a greater demonstration of a 'multi-barrier' approach to runoff quality management.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that water would be filtered by its initial collection point in the storm pond south of Southdale Line and that future development would be subject to storm water management as well.

Consideration of Work Tasks - Appendix "A"

The members discussed the roster of work tasks.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIRMAN

Water Quality Testing

The City Manager advised that water quality testing was being proposed biannually at a cost of approximately \$2,000 per test with the next round of testing to be carried out in 2019.

The members were informed that 10 locations had been sampled previously and that moving forward 4 strategic sample locations around the lake were being proposed and that sampling would be subject to both on site reading and laboratory analysis.

The members discussed the possibility of adding other water courses to the testing program such as Pinafore Pond.

Ms. McClure advised that Lake Whittaker Conservation Area was tested regularly for recreation purposes. KCCA monitors surface water quality downstream of the Dalewood Reservoir, but not the reservoir itself.

The members discussed the difference between water testing for environmental reasons and for public health (recreational) uses.

Phosphorous Education

Mr. Schraeder provided the members with an excerpt from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change “Blue Book” relating to Water Management: Policies, Guidelines, Provincial Water Quality Objectives

The members discussed the various sources of phosphorous entering water courses, that public perception could be different than reality and that the importance of education of water quality issues.

Mr. Collins informed the members that the drainage systems for properties abutting the lake drained towards the street.

The City Manager advised that an education campaign in 2019 would be discussed at a future meeting.

Parkside Water Taking

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that Parkside was drawing approximately 16,000 liters of water every 2 days which was below the threshold to require a water taking permit and that the pumped water was currently not metered.

The members discussed the use of the fields during the summer months and the possibility of charging Parkside for the water used.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that at the volume taken, the City could expect to recoup \$3,000 - \$5,000 in annual revenue.

The members discussed approaching Parkside regarding compensation for the water taken and potentially developing environmental stewardship opportunities through the school programming.

Mr. Singer inquired if there were other significant water draws from the lake.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that Canadale had two water taking permits for groundwater fed ponds on their properties and that these permits were available for inspection online.

Trail Development

Mr. Schraeder inquired if a potential viewing platform could be accessible with barrier free access to the waterfront.

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The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that the trail project was being undertaken by the developer under an agreement with the City and that barrier free access and connection to the viewing platform could be considered in future.

Fish Inventory

Ms. McClure advised that a consultant had been contacted who would conduct the fish classification and habitat study at an estimated cost of \$8,300 and that project could be undertaken prior to October.

Mr. Schraeder inquired if the work could be completed more cost effectively in partnership with a neighbouring conservation authority.

The City Manager advised that this project could be completed in 2018 within existing budgets.

The City Manager advised that the listing of tasks and activities would continuously be updated and amended at future meetings as required.

Environmental Buffer Zones/Plantings

The members discussed the development of a concept plan for implementation in 2019 taking into consideration work that had previously been done.

New Business

Mr. McLoed inquired if Lake Margaret was considered a no access lake, if that would change once fish inventory, trail and viewing platform projects were completed and that there would be an influx of people into the area if that use changed.

The Chair advised that the lake was considered no access at this time.

Mr. Collins inquired on behalf neighboring resident Kara Taylor if a site had been selected for a viewing platform.

The Chair advised that a site had not yet been selected.

Mr. Collins encouraged community consultation prior to selecting the site.

Correspondence

Parkside Water Lease Cancellation - David Collins

The members received the correspondence for information.

Mr. Collins stated that efforts to engage Parkside in Lake Margaret related issues in the past had been unsuccessful and that he was disappointed with the Committee's response to resident concerns about the schools water usage.

Unfinished Business

Water Quality Standards - David and Barbara Collins

Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan - Kara Taylor, Elgin Sleightholm, and David Collins

Fishing in Lake Margaret - David and Barbara Collins

NEXT MEETING

September 20th, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Room #304

ADJOURNMENT

3:25 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIRMAN

August 2, 2018

LAKE MARGARET MANAGEMENT AREA

General Update of Management Plan : Recommended Tasks / Activities for consideration

Water Quality Testing

Proposed to be done every two years during ice free seasons. Next testing period would be in 2019.
Approx. Cost : \$2000 per sample location for the season. Total \$10,000

Phosphorous Education

Proposed neighbourhood campaign in spring 2019.
Approx cost : \$3,500

Parkside Water Taking

City is getting details on pumping activities / volume of water being pumped.

Geese / Waterfowl Management

Program to continue into 2019.

Trail Development

To be completed in 2018

Fish Inventory

Proposed fish inventory in fall of 2018.
Approximate cost : \$8,300

Tree Identification / Flora Study

Contact made with local naturalists clubs – possible implementation in 2019.

Viewing Platform

Details being sought on costs. Possible Service Club project.

Bird Habitat

St. Thomas Field Naturalists – possible coordinated project for 2019

Turtle Habitat

Parks Dept. - clean up pressure treated lumber etc.

Environmental Buffer Zones / Plantings

Targeted education program / planting program – spring 2019
Approximate cost \$10,000

Fishing on Lake

Further discussion following fish inventory work.

Canoeing on Lake

Signage

Interpretive signage / storyboards. Possible GPS trail information system in cooperation with Fanshawe College.

Other

Possible photo contest – public participation
Enhanced environmental education website.