



# Minutes

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## Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee Meeting

held via Zoom  
January 8, 2021  
at 9:00 a.m.

**Present: Voting Members**

Paul Askey, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (*Chair*)  
Camille Rivard-Sirois, Okanagan Nation Alliance (*Vice Chair*)  
Maryssa Bonneau, Penticton Indian Band Natural Resources  
Sophie Fillion, South Okanagan Conservative Program  
Bill Wickett, Alternate, Penticton Fly Fisheries Association  
Doug Maxwell, Member at Large

**Non-Voting Members**

Rick Peleshytuk, Alternate, Ministry of FLNRO, Regional Water Management

**Council:** Frank Regehr, Councillor (*Liaison*)

**Staff:** Kristen Dixon, General Manager of Infrastructure  
Ian Chapman, City Engineer  
Alysa Wardley, Legislative Assistant

**Regrets:** Bruce Turnbull, Penticton Fly Fisheries Association  
Gerry Turchak, Penticton Industrial Development Association  
Sandy Ross, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member  
Tara White, Ministry of FLNRO – Fish & Wildlife Division  
Bryn White

**Guests:**

1. **Call to Order**

The Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee was called to order by the Chair at 9:14 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on January 8, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of the November 9, 2020 Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee Meeting

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee adopt the minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Sophie Fillion, South Okanagan Conservative Program, entered the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

4. **New Business**

4.1 Introduction of the New General Manager of Infrastructure, Kristen – Ian Chapman, City Engineer

Committee members participated in roundtable introductions to welcome the new General Manager of Infrastructure, Kristen Dixon. Committee members were also introduced to a new Voting Member, Sophie Fillion.

4.2 Penticton Creek Structure 3 and 4 Emergency Work – Ian Chapman, City Engineer

The City Engineer provided the Committee with a presentation on the Penticton Creek Structures 3 and 4 which suffered significant deterioration during the 2020 freshet. Structure 3 has suffered crest erosion and needs repair in preparation for the 2021 freshet to protect vulnerable material below the surface from further erosion. Structure 4 has been more substantially eroded; the breakdown of concrete elements and erosion of vulnerable material exposed beneath those elements has been significant and there is concern that another high freshet flow would expedite erosion upstream toward Structure 5. These failures have caused a transport of eroded materials downstream and could cause future problems if larger material impedes the flow within the narrow sections downstream together with deposition of smaller material in the existing spawning beds if left unattended. Planned emergency works include excavation and shaping of the channel, as well as the installation of river rock, rip rap, and drain rock.

A question period was opened for Committee members following the presentation where members provided feedback for the emergency work plans, including ideal times for works. Questions were generally focused on concerns for fish and fish habitat. Although fish did not spawn in the direct area of the works, there are eggs incubating directly downstream below the concrete chute.

Comments raised included:

- Importance of integrating placement of spawning gravel within the restoration of Structures 3 and 4.
- Importance of post re-vegetation after any "emergency works".
- Ensuring the riffles are built to concentrate low flow (V-shape).
- Support for keeping the deep holes (2 scour holes according to drawings).
- Okanagan Nation Alliance/ Penticton Indian Band has capacity to be involved in any of the environmental monitoring and fish salvage during construction or post-construction monitoring (if put to tender separate from engineer contract).

- Concerns that conducting emergency works on a section of concrete that is only 50m above the end of the current project was not cost effective and in future work to larger sections would be preferable.

It was noted that the reduced gradient when replacing drop structures with riffle-pools has used up a significant portion of the spawning bed above Structure 2 (in 3a/3b project design) and the emergency works will significantly impact the spawning habitat above Structure 3. Since low gradient spawning habitats that can retain gravel are extremely rare in Penticton Creek, it is important that designs by Mould Engineering show how they will result in no net loss of spawning habitat once construction is complete.

#### 4.3 Penticton Creek Reach 12A French Drain Update– Ian Chapman, City Engineer

The City Engineer provided the Committee with a presentation on the French drain at Reach 12a, which was required following restoration works that broke through an underground layer causing a neighbouring resident to report flooding in their basement. The French drain was designed by Mould Engineering in order to intercept and divert groundwater back into the creek. Works to the French drain were completed in December 2020 and finishing touches to the asphalt pathway and surrounding vegetation will continue in the Spring of 2021.

#### 4.4 Enhanced FFSBC and ONA Fish and Fish Habitat Monitoring 2021 – Paul Askey, Chair

The Chair informed the Committee that he has been in communication with Okanagan Nation Alliance members and that there are plans for future Kokanee and habitat monitoring which will include detailed monitoring using drone footage. This form of data collection will allow habitat monitoring to determine how fish use certain features rather than just fish counts. Contracts are being developed for environmental monitoring which will include annual reports and a summary after three years. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC is in the process of securing funding grants for this monitoring. The Chair emphasized that it is important that there is clear communication between City staff and the Committee about which monitoring elements are part of construction versus monitoring by ONA/FFSBC so that work is not accidentally duplicated.

### 5. **Next Meeting**

The next Penticton & Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

### 6. **Public Question Period**

### 7. **Adjournment**

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee adjourn the meeting held on January 8, 2021 at 10:34 a.m.

Certified Correct:



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Alys Wardley  
Legislative Assistant