



# Minutes

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## Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee Meeting

held via Zoom  
November 19, 2021  
at 9:00 a.m.

**Present:**

**Voting Members**

Paul Askey, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (*Chair*)  
Karilyn Alex, Okanagan Nation Alliance (*Vice Chair*)  
Bill Wickett, Alternate, Penticton Fly Fisheries Association  
Doug Maxwell, Member at Large  
Gerry Turchak, Penticton Industrial Development Association  
Maryssa Bonneau, Penticton Indian Band Natural Resources  
Sandy Ross, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member

**Non-Voting Members**

Rick Peleshytuk, Ministry of FLNRO, Regional Water Management

**Staff:**

Ian Chapman, City Engineer  
John Schappert, Legislative Assistant

**Regrets:**

Sophie Fillion, South Okanagan Conservative Program  
Tara White, Ministry of FLNRO – Fish & Wildlife Division  
Bryn White  
Frank Regehr, Councillor

**Delegates:**

James Bigelow, Stantec  
Joe Kennedy, Stantec  
Leif Burge, Stantec

1. **Call to Order**

The Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee was called to order by the Chair at 9:01 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 November 19, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of the October 22, 2021 Special 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 October 22, 2021 special meeting as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **New Business**

4.1 Penticton Creek Reach 3A Upper/ 3B Design Review

The Acting GM Infrastructure introduced the Penticton Creek Reach 3A Upper/ 3B Design project and noted some concerns reflecting lessons learned from the recent structure 3 and 4 work regarding the project.

The floor was opened to Committee members for comments and questions.

Boulder size and type:

The ONA representative commented that they are not in support of the design, noting that boulders appear to be oversized and stating that how you build the riffle is key, utilizing a variety of boulders, and that they feel only using larger boulders alone would not be effective. Stantec representatives responded that their design does in fact include a variety of boulder sizes. A Committee Member asked if Stantec representatives would be on site while the contractors are working, and Stantec representatives commented that they have allocated for some on-site presence including supervision of individual large boulder positioning. Stantec stated that the boulder size was based on literature review and conventional engineering manuals and reflects the design flow and slope of the creek. An approach for reducing the size of the boulders would require adjustment of the slope – raise the lower end of the slope or lower the top end. Staff noted that the pedestrian bridge could be raised by up to approximately 1.5m if required to facilitate raising the creek bed. The ONA rep noted her understanding from a local expert that much smaller boulder sizes could work.

Elimination of spawning habitat:

A Committee Member expressed concern over the loss of spawning bed in the current design, and Stantec representatives noted that the design can be adjusted if necessary. A Committee Member asked if additional spawning space was going to be added to make up for the spawning space being taken away further up. Stantec representatives noted that the project will increase the overall spawning area and that the order of the work could be rearranged to minimize the impact on the existing spawning areas until additional spawning area can be added. A Committee Member commented that the overall increase in projected spawning area in the Stantec design is not permanent and only expected to withstand a 2-year flood level. Furthermore, the current spawning habitat is a completely unique site in regards to channel width and gradient, not found elsewhere in the entire stream accessible to Kokanee.

Reinforced Concrete Retaining Walls:

Stantec representatives addressed concerns regarding the retaining walls noting that the walls result from the decision by the City to retain the lane which needs to carry large garbage truck traffic.

Karilyn Alex left the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Temporary Creek Diversion:

Stantec confirmed that either a gravity pipe or pumped solution would work but that their experience is that the pumped solution is preferred by contractors. Staff asked how the risks of noise, mechanical reliability and varying capacity would be addressed by the pumped solution. Stantec confirmed that the noise can be addressed on site including the potential to use power from the City electrical grid if available. The contractor would be required to have a backup pump for every pump on site and that the pumps would be required to have a specified capacity. Staff asked that the tender documents will include the option of either approach. A Committee Member asked if pump would only be intended for use if city power were possible given the heavily urbanized area and noise concerns. Stantec confirmed this was the case, generators would only be needed as a back-up.

Elevated; Much larger project – Limited fisheries window:

The FLNRO representative confirmed that the decision on an extended fisheries window to accommodate this larger project scope rests with the habitat officers.

Staff undertook to address the following actions:

- Check if the lane just north of Nanaimo Ave bridge could be terminated in a dead end off Wade Avenue which would eliminate the need for the large retaining wall while still retaining the creekside walkway.
- Confirm the scope of a design that could reduce the boulder size and reduce the amount of spawning bed lost just upstream of Structure 2 in the current design.
- Confirm if a full electrical supply for creek diversion pumping could be provided for the project.
- Investigate the basis of concerns surrounding the boulder size selection used in the design process.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee (PECRC) receive into the record the report dated November 19, 2021 titled "Penticton Creek Reach 3A Upper/ 3B design review".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Next Meeting**

The next Penticton & Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on Friday, December 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

6. **Public Question Period**

7. **Adjournment**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee adjourn the meeting held on November 19, 2021 at 11:11 a.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:



John Schappert  
Legislative Assistant