

Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee Meeting

held via Zoom
December 17, 2021
at 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Voting Members

Paul Askey, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (*Chair*)
Zoe Eyjolfson, Okanagan Nation Alliance (*Vice Chair*)
Bill Wickett, Alternate, Penticton Fly Fisheries Association
Doug Maxwell, Member at Large
Gerry Turchak, Penticton Industrial Development Association
Sandy Ross, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Member

Non-Voting Members

Rick Peleshytuk, Ministry of FLNRO, Regional Water Management

Council Liaison:

Frank Regehr, Councillor

Staff:

Ian Chapman, City Engineer
John Schappert, Legislative Assistant
Paula McKinnon, Deputy Corporate Officer

Regrets:

Maryssa Bonneau, Penticton Indian Band Natural Resources
Sophie Fillion, South Okanagan Conservative Program
Tara White, Ministry of FLNRO – Fish & Wildlife Division
Bryn White

1. **Call to Order**

The Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee was called to order by the Chair at 9:04 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 December 17, 2021 as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of the November 19, 2021 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 19, 2021 meeting as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sandy Ross joined the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

4. **New Business**

4.1 Update on Discussions with Stantec

The Acting General Manager of Infrastructure provided an update on conversations that took place with Stantec following the last committee meeting to address some concerns that were raised. He noted that Stantec has confirmed they are able to look at reducing the slope of the channel, which will hopefully reduce the rock size required, and reducing the footprint into the existing spawning bed. He noted that the cost of this would be approximately \$20,000. He also noted that there are options to reduce the size of the retaining walls, resulting in a cost savings that should offset the additional design costs.

The floor was opened to Committee members for comments and questions. A Committee Member asked what the overall impact on the spawning bed is with the new plan. Staff responded that it will encroach into the existing spawning bed 30 meters, but that they are planning to reduce this encroachment by 5 to 10 meters. Committee Members discussed adding spawning gravel and contouring it, along with potential funding for this action. A Committee Member suggested to double check that the pool depth is sufficient for fish passage purposes in the new design. A Committee Member asked about the timelines of this new design. Staff responded that Stantec has confirmed they can provide updated design drawings and reports by late February 2022, which should allow for a permit to be issued in time for the fish window.

4.2 2022 Design Initiatives

The Acting General Manager of Infrastructure informed the Committee that the 2022 Financial Plan included funds for the detailed design of Penticton Creek Reach 2 and Ellis Creek Reach 7 and that the process to select consultants for this work will begin in early 2022. He also noted that the work for Reach 2 in Penticton Creek will likely result in a different character of the resulting upgraded channel due to the very constrained urban corridor which presents challenges to improving fish passage whilst also addressing the hydraulic requirements for the accommodation of the large flows.

The Acting General Manager of Infrastructure also informed the Committee that they have identified Reach 7 as the first of three reaches that comprise the highest priority of reaches to be dealt with in Ellis Creek. The high velocities arising in the steeply sloped Reach 7 have been mobilizing bed materials and transporting them downstream where they accumulate in the relatively flatter sloped reaches near the hospital. This initiative (Reach 7) will be the first in a gradual reach-by-reach improvement of Ellis Creek to get the creek into a more stable functional form and also maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

The floor was opened to Committee members for comments and questions. A Committee Member observed that there is a lot of rock in Ellis Creek and asked whether this rock can be removed/reduced from various pinch points for re-use in other sections of the creek and whether any other supply of rock can be sourced to address required creek upgrades. Staff responded that all surplus material removed during creek restoration work that is of a useful size for future work is saved for this purpose along with rock from other sources such as property development excavation and rock sourced from quarry pits. Another question arose as to whether there was any work contemplated towards a potential revision to the 200-year flow expectation to accommodate "Atmospheric River" events like those recently experienced in the lower mainland. Staff responded that a very vigorous process was conducted during preparation of the master plan to establish the design flow and that an atmospheric river was not specifically included but that the process did include the incorporation of a factor of safety to account for climate change. Another Committee Member asked for clarification regarding the allotted budget for the 2022 design project. Staff responded that \$450,000 has been allocated to the design of Penticton Creek and \$200,000 to Ellis Creek.

5. **Next Meeting**

The next Penticton & Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee meeting is to be determined.

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 December 17, 2021 at 10:07 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:



John Schappert
Legislative Assistant

for