

Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee Meeting

held via Zoom
February 3, 2022
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
Maryssa Bonneau, Penticton Indian Band Natural Resources

Non-Voting Members

Bruce McFarlane, Ministry of FLNRO, Regional Water Management

Council Liaison:

Frank Regehr, Councillor

Staff:

Ian Chapman, Manager of Special Projects
Kristen Dixon, General Manager of Infrastructure
Paula McKinnon, Deputy Corporate Officer

Regrets:

Sophie Fillion, South Okanagan Conservative Program
Tara White, Ministry of FLNRO – Fish & Wildlife Division
Rick Peleshytuk, Ministry of FLNRO, Regional Water Management
Bryn White

Guests:

Joe Kennedy, Stantec
James Bigelow, 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 February 3, 2022 as amended to include Item: 4.4 - Update on the Removal of Nanaimo Avenue Bridge and Construction Timing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of the December 17, 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 December 17, 2021 meeting as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **New Business**

4.1 Presentation by Stantec

The Manager of Special Projects provided an update on conversations that took place with Stantec following the last Committee meeting to address the challenges of the design including land acquisition, amount, size, cost and time to build retaining walls necessary to make the design work, boulder sizes and impacts on the existing spawning area. Stantec was asked to see if changes could be made to the design to address these items and be able to execute the contract this year within the estimated budget.

Stantec provided a presentation to the Committee regarding potential changes to the design to achieve these objectives. The presentation focused on informing the Committee on the following topics in detail:

- Property Constraints
- Design Approach/How they got there
- Re-design Description
- Comparison of Expected Performance; and
- Next Steps

Leif Burge, Stantec, entered the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

The Manager of Special Projects stated that Stantec has managed to define solutions that address all of the various comments and concerns raised and that if endorsed by the committee would allow the design to be finalized, submitted as a revision to the current permit application and facilitate construction in the forthcoming fish window.

The floor was opened to Committee members for comments and questions. A Committee Member commented that the most important benefit to fish is to have concrete removed, and design changes to make the cost and timing of construction feasible are important but that the design changes to fish habitat wasn't as positive an outcome since the longitudinal section indicated the impact to the existing spawning bed at the top end of the project has not changed from the previous design and the unique deep pool feature was reduced to two shallower pools. The Stantec Consultant clarified that the changes are not visible in the profile, but some disturbance of the spawning bed to the sides is reduced as illustrated on the plan view. The Consultant also provided clarity that the gradient differences in the last meters at the upstream tie in point are minimal and field fitting can be used to benefit fish habitat by decreasing the impact to the spawning bed as much as possible.

A Committee Member questioned whether increased velocities in the narrower channel will cause removal of gravels by scouring action. The Consultant responded that the velocities in the new design will be similar to the previous design; the narrowing will be minimal and the velocities in the pool are very low during spawning.

A Committee Member inquired about encroaching properties potential constraints on the design specifically on the right bank. The Consultant confirmed that encroachment on the left bank included pathways, retaining walls and trees that would not be beneficial to remove, and on the right bank the property owners have largely stayed within their property lines and the new design has been modified to stop at the fences/property lines instead of acquiring land from the owners as required in the previous design.

The Manager of Special Projects notified the Committee that the trees/vegetation within the construction area will need to be removed within the next 6-8 weeks before the nesting season begins. It was also noted that the larger trees along the perimeter of the creek corridor, particularly on the south side, will remain to help provide over-arching shade to the fish habitat.

A Committee Member suggested that the velocity profile should be presented on a diagram for the benefit of the Community and fish habitat enthusiasts. The Committee Member commented that the variable bottom width is a good way to go and expressed concerns regarding clearance under the Wade Avenue Bridge being on the lower side creating a pinch point. The Committee Member asked about the rock/boulder size and what is being anticipated and commented on the limitations to the future design of the next up-stream reach restoration. The Stantec Consultant responded that the majority will be in the 1.0 to 1.2-meter range, and that a velocity profile will be created.

Another Committee Member commented that the property owners adjacent to the creek have been waiting to hear back from City Staff and inquired on their behalf when that would take place. The Manager of Special Projects commented that discussions with owners will resume again shortly based upon the new design. The Committee member also commented on the issues with the walking bridge and whether any changes will be made underneath the bridge to help reduce the current issues with homelessness. The Manager of Special Projects responded that the appropriate staff will be involved on that issue.

A Committee Member asked whether costs will be saved on the construction of this redesign to help pay for the costs of the engineering work on the design revisions. The Manager of Special Projects clarified that while the additional design costs are likely to be much lower than the cost of the retaining walls that will be eliminated it has yet to be established if the grant funding rules will allow for that direct substitution.

A Committee Member asked about access points for the construction areas and whether removal of the Nanaimo Avenue bridge will create any challenges. The Stantec Consultant answered that the primary access for the creek will be at Nanaimo Avenue which will provide a fairly large lay down area and access once the bridge is removed. Wade Avenue was also mentioned as another lay-down and access point which is on City property.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee support proceeding with the proposed changes to the Penticton Creek design as presented by Stantec at the February 3, 2022 Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.2 2022 Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee Meeting Schedule

The Deputy Corporate Officer introduced the 2022 Committee meeting schedule.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Penticton and Ellis Creek Restoration Select Committee 2022 meetings be tentatively held on January 17, February 10, March 10, April 21 May 12, June 16, July 14, August 11, September 22, October 13, November 17 and December 15 at City Hall or electronically at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified.

CARRIED UNANIMOSLY

4.3 Electronic Meeting Policy

The Deputy Corporate Officer highlighted the Electronic Meeting Policy adopted by Council in October 2021 as it pertains to electronic meetings for Advisory Committees.

4.4 Update on the Removal of Nanaimo Avenue Bridge and Construction Timing

The Manager of Special Projects asked Stantec whether they could comment on when the Nanaimo Avenue Bridge will need to be removed before the in-stream works begin.

The Stantec Consultants commented that the sooner the bridge can be removed the faster preparations can begin which would be advantageous to the project and noted that a huge lead time is not required. A detailed construction schedule will be provided at a later date.

The Manager of Special Projects notified the Committee that the following items will need to be taken into consideration moving forward with the project schedule:

- trimming and removal of trees before the nesting season begins;
- presentation to the Penticton Indian Band needs to take place in March;
- revised plans for the permit process need to be submitted at the end of February;
- get the tender out in mid-May and close the tender in mid-June; and
- begin construction in mid-July.

5. **Next Meeting**

Bruce McFarlane, Non-Voting Member, notified the Committee that he has decided to retire from the public service and expressed his thanks to the Committee for the wonderful experience.

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 February 3, 2022 at 10:35 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:



Paula McKinnon
Deputy Corporate Officer