

OCT 13 2016

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

Township of North Huron
PO Box 90 Wingham, Ontario
N0G 2W0

Attention: Reeve Vincent and Council Members:

Re: Howson Dam and Pond

We understand that some of you were at one or both of the Public Information Centres (PIC) held in conjunction with the Environmental Assessment (EA) on September 29th and we appreciated your attendance.

There were a number of interesting points and observations that arose from the presentation and resulting discussion, such as:

1. The EA is being undertaken, at a cost of about \$90,000, even though it is NOT REQUIRED for a repair project, as a dam repair is a Schedule A project (see #13 in the attachment);
2. The \$90,000 is being taken from a reserve fund that was set up by previous Councils for the repair and maintenance of the Dam, not for an environmental assessment, and will deplete about half of that reserve;
3. If the EA proceeds, and the repair alternative is the recommended solution, we will not know if the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will approve such a project, as that investigation is not part of the terms of reference for the EA;
4. The bridge part of the structure is apparently being included in the EA even though it was NOT part of the RFP and was not part of the repair request put to your Council by this committee, or anyone else; and
5. Approximately 150 ratepayers attended the PIC and we heard only positive comments concerning repairing the Dam and reinstating the water in the pond to the normal, historic elevation, that is Alternative 3, but without the bridge; and the ratepayers do not want \$90,000 of their money spent on an EA.

After considering the observations and comments from the PIC, we recommend that there are two main issues that your Council needs to immediately act on, as follows.

1. The Environmental Assessment should be put "on hold" immediately and an application for repair of the dam made to the MNR using the B. M. Ross & Associates plans that were prepared last year. If this is done, we will then know what will be involved with obtaining a permit for repair and what would be the best use of the Dam Reserve Fund. This what we asked you to do earlier this year.
2. If the EA ever proceeds, the bridge should NOT be considered. No one asked that it be included, no one thinks we need a bridge there and we cannot afford a new or repaired bridge. Any time and money spent on the bridge issue is a waste.

As we have stated before, our Committee has done considerable investigation regarding all aspects of repairing the Dam, restoring the pond to its historic level, and generating electricity and we would be very pleased to work with you and the Township staff to this end. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding this offer.

We trust you will give our recommendations serious consideration and we look forward to your prompt action and reply.

Sincerely,



for The Howson Dam and Pond Citizens Committee

Rennie Alexander, Jim Wickens, Bob Middleton, Tom Inglis, Bruce MacDonald, Andy McBride

MUNICIPAL WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

SCHEDULE A: PRE-APPROVED ACTIVITIES

(Note: The schedules shall be reviewed inclusively to ensure that the correct schedule is selected.)

The following Schedule A projects are pre-approved. The proponent may proceed without following the procedures set out in this Class EA.

Projects which take place partly outside the proponent's municipal boundary shall be planned at least under Schedule B, other than "normal or emergency operational activities" which shall be Schedule A.

Wastewater Management Projects:

1. Normal or emergency operational activities (see Glossary definition for Operation). Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - modify, repair, reconstruct existing facilities to provide operational, maintenance or other improvements such as reducing odour, insulating buildings to reduce noise levels and conserve energy, landscaping
 - on-going maintenance activities
 - normal operation of sewage treatment plants
 - installation of new service connections, catch basins and appurtenances from existing sewers
 - maintenance and/or minor improvements to grounds and structures
 - addition of minor buildings, sheds and equipment and materials storage areas
 - repairs, cleaning, renovations or replacement of sewage treatment facilities, pumping plant equipment or outfalls
 - cleaning, relining, repairs and renovations to existing sewage collection system
 - installation or replacement of standby power equipment where new equipment is located within an existing building or structure.
2. Increase pumping station capacity by adding or replacing equipment where new equipment is located within an existing building or structure and where the existing rated capacity is not exceeded.
3. Expand / refurbish / upgrade sewage treatment plant including outfall up to existing rated capacity where no land acquisition is required.
4. Install chemical or other process equipment for operational or maintenance purposes in existing sewage collection system or existing sewage treatment facility.
5. Provide additional treatment facilities in existing lagoons, such as aeration, chemical addition, post treatment, including expanding lagoon capacity up to existing rated capacity, provided no land acquisition nor additional lagoon cells are required.
6. Expansion of the buffer zone between a lagoon facility or land treatment area and adjacent uses where the buffer zone is entirely on the proponent's land.

SCHEDULE A - Continued

7. Dispose of, utilize, or manage biosolids on an interim basis (e.g. further treatment in drying beds, composting, temporary holding at transfer stations), at:
 - a) An existing sewage treatment plant where the biosolids is generated, or
 - b) An existing landfill site, incinerator or organic soil conditioning site, where the biosolids is to be utilized or disposed of.
8. Establish a new biosolids organic soil conditioning site.
9. Increase sewage treatment plant capacity beyond existing rated capacity through improvements to operations and maintenance activities only, but without construction of works to expand, modify or retrofit the plant or the outfall to the receiving the water body, with no increase to total mass loading to receiving water body as identified in the Certificate of Approval.
10. Establish, extend, or enlarge a sewage collection system and all necessary works to connect the system to an existing sewage outlet, where it is required as a condition of approval on a site plan, consent plan of subdivision or plan of condominium which will come into effect under the Planning Act prior to the construction of the collection system.
11. Establish new or replace or expand existing stormwater detention/retention ponds or tanks and appurtenances including outfall to receiving water body provided all such facilities are in either an existing utility corridor or an existing road allowance.
12. Replace traditional materials in an existing watercourse or in slope stability works with material of equal or better properties, at substantially the same location and for the same purpose.
13. Reconstruct an existing dam weir at the same location and for the same purpose, use and capacity.
14. Expand, improve or modify existing patrol yards, equipment and material storage facilities, maintenance facilities and parking lots for service vehicles, where no land acquisition is required.
15. Sewage projects planned and approved under Ontario Regulation 586/06 (see Section A.2.10.4 of Municipal Class EA).
16. Roadside ditches, culverts and other such incidental stormwater works constructed solely for the purpose of servicing municipal road works.
17. Construction of stormwater management facilities which are required as a condition of approval on a consent, site plan, plan of subdivision or condominium which will come into effect under the Planning Act prior to the construction of the facility.
18. Any project which would otherwise be subject to this Class EA and has fulfilled the requirements outlined in Section A.2.9 of this Class EA and for which the relevant Planning Act documents have been approved or have come into effect under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.13, as amended.