



**GREENHILL, HANNON, UPPER DAVIS AND UPPER OTTAWA CREEKS
STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLANS
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Monday March 18th, 2013 6pm to 8:30pm
Hamilton Public Library – Sherwood Branch

MEETING NOTES
Meeting 5 – Development of Stewardship Actions

Present: Morgan Pirie, Kathryn Gold, Melissa Kiddie, Jen Baker, Darren Kenny, Jaime Overy, Kelly Pike, Lynda Lukasik, Pradeep Sibal, Ryan Cummins, Scott Peck, Sheila O’Neal, Lisa Riederer, Tawnia Martel

Regrets: John Hall, Martha Ronalds, Brian Hall, Cherish Elwell, Lesley McDonell, Jonathan Bastien, Nahed Ghbn, Barry Myler

1. Review of Minutes from previous meeting:

- Review of potential and revised classifications of issues identified at Meeting 3
- Review of linking the classification of issues identified at Meeting 3 to the five themes from the Red Hill Watershed Action Plan, 1998
- Review of the Outstanding Questions from Red Hill State of the Watershed Report, 1997

2. Continuation of the development of Stewardship Actions related to the issues identified in Meeting 3

A. Stormwater - Continued from Meeting 4

a. Education and Outreach Opportunities

- i. Educate the public about the impacts of pharmaceuticals on aquatic wildlife.
- ii. Promote that pharmacies and municipal transfer stations accept expired medication at no cost.
- iii. Green Venture has a series on Cable 14 related to reducing road salt and other best management practices for stormwater.
- iv. Consider signage indicating that water in watercourses may be contaminated; include a phone number or hotline to report concerns on the signage.
- v. Consider creating a Low Impact Development demonstration site/house in a new subdivision.
- vi. Approach the Hamilton Halton Home Builders Association to assist with the incorporation of a Low Impact Development demonstration site/house in a new subdivision.
- vii. Develop a green handbook for new homeowners in new housing developments adjacent to natural areas i.e. green handbook waterloo. This has been done for developments in the Meadowlands and Red Hill areas.
- viii. Promote the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban Construction, 2006.
- ix. Provide sediment and erosion control training for contractors, City staff, CA staff and HHHBA members.
- x. Provide education about sediment and erosion control through all stages of development, from developer to homeowner.
- xi. Educate local residents about sediment and erosion control and who to contact if sediment is observed coming from a construction site.

- xii. Promote Eco House as a demonstration site for rain gardens. BARC is also working with McMaster to pilot a rain garden on the McMaster campus with the possibility of taking the program into schools.
 - i. Promote the Green Venture de-paving project at St. Augustine School as a demonstration site for impervious surfacing remediation.
 - ii. Continue to promote the downspout disconnection and rain barrel programs, including demonstration sites at EcoHouse. Green Venture is also undertaking a pilot to provide street locations and signage where disconnections have been undertaken as demonstration sites.
 - iii. Promote new techniques for sediment and erosion control, i.e. compost filter socks. Include information that alternatives to silt fence can be cost effective and easy to maintain.
- b. Special Study Opportunities
 - i. Determine if pharmaceuticals as a result of cross connections or dumping are currently being investigated.
 - ii. Promote and implement the new City of Hamilton policy on low impact development.
 - iii. Determine if sediment and erosion control are legally required in subdivision agreements. There is a standard list of conditions one of which is for sediment and erosion control measures.
- c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. Continue to rehabilitate eroded or undermined stormsewer outfalls. These sites are currently rehabilitated by the City of Hamilton on an as needed basis.
 - ii. Continue to incorporate lot level control Low Impact Development techniques i.e. bioswales, pervious pavement, etc. as part of subdivision design. Note that use of interlocking pavement may be limited because of accessibility issues.
 - iii. Continue to ensure that sediment and erosion control is installed properly and monitored and maintained through compliance verification and enforcement.

B. Invasive Species cont'd from Meeting 4

- a. Education and Outreach Opportunities
 - i. Provide homeowners adjacent to natural areas with information on how to identify and manage invasive species as well as alternatives to invasive species.
 - ii. Provide training on the identification and management of invasive species as well as landscaping with native species to the landscaping industry through Landscape Ontario.
 - iii. Include information about the spread of invasive species by contractor vehicles.
 - iv. Promote the Grow Me Instead initiative through the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, which includes contacting local nurseries about alternatives to invasive species.
 - v. Consider developing a volunteer program to map invasive species on public lands, could possibly include the use of smart phones for georeferencing and/or photographing the invasive species.
 - vi. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canada-Ontario Invasive Species Centre and OFAH/MNR Invading Species Awareness Program are currently adapting an Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System for invasive species in Ontario. The launch of the application is likely May, 2013.
 - vii. Consider developing an 'Adopt a' program for managing invasive species hot spots.
 - viii. Provide education about invasive insects i.e. Emerald Ash Borer. Include information on how to identify the insects and indicators of specific species presence. Also include contact information for agencies for reporting observations.
- b. Special Study Opportunities
 - i. Review the existing City of Hamilton Street Trees Program Species List and recommend native, non-invasive alternatives.
- c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. City and HCA staff, continue to review development application landscape plans against the most up to date landscape plan guidelines to ensure that no invasive plants are included on properties near or adjacent to natural areas.

- ii. Develop volunteer/stewardship events to manage invasive species. The City of Hamilton and HCA have been discussing a potential garlic mustard event.
- iii. Preserve woodlot biodiversity at Mohawk Sports Park through invasive species management.

C. Sustainable Development

a. Education and Outreach Opportunities

- i. Many of the E&O opportunities under stormwater relate to sustainable development as well and will be incorporated here.
- ii. Promote the requirements, benefits and need for intensification.
- iii. Develop education and outreach programming related to valuing sustainable development.

b. Special Study Opportunities

- i. Municipal and provincial policies are being implemented.
- ii. Determine if in-fill development will increase once available land for Greenfield development is developed.
- iii. Determine if residential unit size is trending upward or downward for future infill development planning.
- iv. The City of Hamilton is renewing Vision 20/20. Incorporate indicators of success into the Stewardship Action Plans that relate to indicators in Vision 20/20.
- v. Incorporate habitat targets from the 'How Much Habitat is Enough Habitat?' Guidelines as indicators in the Stewardship Action Plans. Include recommendation to maintain existing habitat. Consider what habitat targets are possible to achieve in these subwatersheds based on current and proposed land use as well as the How Much Habitat is Enough Discussion Paper, 2006. The City of Hamilton Official Plan includes targets for forest cover based on HMHIE as well.
- vi. Incorporate Provincial Water Quality Objectives as water quality indicators in the Stewardship Action Plans.
- vii. Consider fishery and benthic community indicators for the Stewardship Action Plans.
- viii. Ensure natural feature preservation is done during secondary plans and official plan development.
- ix. Make effort to continue to incorporate sustainable development practices at the site plan level.
- x. Ensure sustainable development is required from official plan through to the site plan level.
- xi. Strengthen the City of Hamilton Forest Conservation By-law to be more similar to a private tree by-law (that applies to single/small numbers of trees as well as woodlots) – i.e. Ancaster and portions of Dundas and Stoney Creek.

c. Restoration Opportunities

- i. Promote infill development.
- ii. Continue to require the same development application review for infill development as for Greenfields; noting that at times flexibility is needed because of constraints due to existing infrastructure.
- iii. Continue to require tree protection plans and one to one compensation for the protection or replacement of single/small numbers of trees. One to one compensation is meant to help to retain tree cover targets. Tree protection plans are completed based on the City of Hamilton Tree Protection Guidelines.

D. Urban Creek Systems

a. Education and Outreach Opportunities

- i. Involve members of the community at the beginning of the process when proposing to widen/establish buffers.
- ii. Develop an information guide for new homeowners in new housing developments adjacent to urban creek systems. This has been done for developments in the Meadowlands and Red Hill areas.

- iii. Link education and outreach to everyday activities – lawn mowing, dumping of yard waste, draining pools, observing damming debris in creeks, etc. Ensure a local context rather than global context.
 - iv. Develop a package for real estate agents with information for potential homebuyers for living adjacent to natural areas. This information could be given in a course for Realtor's Association of Hamilton-Burlington.
 - v. Develop educational material for local residents to understand the purpose and need for erosion and sediment control, how it can be related to the community as a whole and how they can be involved in its implementation.
 - vi. Develop a pilot information package for one street or part of a neighbourhood related to the health of a local watercourse. Aim for one or two neighbourhood champions to promote 'big picture' ideas about preserving and maintaining the natural environment for the community.
 - b. Special Study Opportunities
 - c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. Consider a restoration project to enhance/improve the channelized tributary of Upper Davis Creek passing through Valley Park.
 - ii. Consider habitat enhancement on the portion of Hannon Creek that passes through Mount Albion Conservation Area.
- E. Litter
- a. Education and Outreach Opportunities
 - b. Special Study Opportunities
 - c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. Litter tends to collect at the base of Red Hill but there is limited access for clean-up due to the shoreline.
 - ii. Consider undertaking a pilot project to determine the viability and feasibility of recycling containers with lids.
 - iii. BARC is undertaking a litter clean-up at Valley Park Spring, 2013.
- F. Detachment from Nature
- a. Education and Outreach Opportunities
 - i. Install "Red Hill Creek Watershed" signage throughout the watershed – Watershed Planning Network.
 - ii. Promote existing groups that are doing guided hikes through natural areas in the watershed i.e. Hamilton Naturalists Club Wednesday Evening Walks Series.
 - iii. Develop education and outreach material linking everyday activities to local natural areas to help local residents make connection between activities and impacts.
 - iv. Encourage the formation of "Friends of" groups. Invite ENGO's to come and talk to these groups. Centre ENGO talks around social events for these groups.
 - v. Develop education and outreach material specific to creeks in neighbourhoods with messaging including "There is a creek in your neighbourhood and here are reasons why it is important, as well as messaging that outlines steps that can be taken to preserve or enhance the creek".
 - b. Special Study Opportunities
 - c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. Consider a pilot program for local residents to undertake/assist with plant propagation in urban areas to be used in planting projects in neighbourhood natural areas i.e. Friends of Riverwood through Credit Valley Conservation.
- G. Water Quality
- a. Education and Outreach Opportunities
 - b. Special Study Opportunities
 - i. Approach the City of Hamilton to consider the prioritization of sewersheds for retrofit of cross connections.
 - ii. The City of Hamilton is currently undertaking an inventory of stormwater management ponds including prioritization for maintenance and enhancement.

- iii. Investigate the impacts of water quality in stormwater management ponds on wildlife.
- c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. Confirm water quality at the stormsewer outfall at the Barton and Potruff stormwater management pond. Investigate potential sources of contamination and prioritize associated sewershed and drainage area for remediation. (Retain for Red Hill Valley subwatershed Stewardship Action Plan)

H. Water Conservation

- a. Education and Outreach Opportunities
 - i. Continue to promote the Ministry of Natural Resources Low Water Response Program.
 - ii. Continue to promote water conservation programs. Consider messaging related to decreased water use in combined sewer areas resulting in less wastewater to be treated at the Woodward Treatment Plant and therefore less cost for treatment and greater available capacity to reduce the potential for emergency by-passes. Also consider messaging explaining reasons for rate increases despite use decreases.
 - iii. Continue to promote the City of Hamilton Rates and Leaks Detection and Protective Plumbing Programs.
- b. Special Study Opportunities
 - i. Investigate the use of block rates for water services.
- c. Restoration Opportunities
 - i. Consider developing a low flow toilet rebate program. Include a return system for existing toilets to be recycled (crushed to make "poticrete" an aggregate mix containing 20 percent toilets that can be used in sidewalk construction).