



Meeting Minutes

Event:	Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Paris Pit CAP # 4 Ecology
Date & Time:	Tuesday, September 25, 2012 7:00- 9:00 PM
Place:	Paris Grand Country Club, River House
Chair:	Linda Smith, Facilitator
Participants:	Alex Faux, Neighbour Bill Telfer, Neighbour Ross Moore, Neighbour John McAllister, Neighbour Robb Edwards, Neighbour Gary Strauss, Neighbour Fred Natolochny, Grand River Conservation Authority Elizabeth Norris, Neighbour Marilyn Sewell, Neighbour Shirley Simons, Councilor Murray Powell, Councilor Bill Galloway, Holcim Canada Kevin Mitchell, Dufferin Aggregates Mark Cece, MMM Group
Guests:	Alexander Stettler, MMM Group Rafael Chocomeli, Dufferin Aggregates Richard Erdmann, Dufferin Aggregates
Minutes:	Courtney Somers, Facilitator
Regrets:	Cyril Parsons, Neighbour Jake Vanderburg, Neighbour Steve Schmitt, Councillor Michael H Fox, Neighbour

Minutes

Introduction

Linda Smith leads introductions by introducing Bill Galloway, Senior Vice-President of Holcim Canada, who will be taking over Andrea Bourrie's role at the Paris Pit. Linda leads the review of minutes from the June 19th CAP and small changes are made.

Bill Galloway introduces the topic of the meeting, ecology, and explains how the presentation will proceed.

Update since last CAP meeting



Bill Galloway provides an update to the CAP on what has happened since the last CAP meeting; request from CCOB for site plans (delivered on August 21st), including revised pit entrance amendment, letter from MNR, and Permit to Take Water (PTTW) being filed in late 2012. Information will be provided to CAP members and public once it is available.

Bill Galloway reviews Holcim Canada's partnerships with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and explains that the goal of Holcim is to create Biodiversity Management Systems (BMS).

Bill Galloway explains Holcim Canada's partnership with Earth Rangers, a national award winning, non-profit organizations communicating the importance of biodiversity. The partnership was officially launched today (September 25th) at the Milton Quarry. Bill Galloway explains that a school in Paris may also be involved with Earth Rangers.

Bill Galloway explains Holcim's partnership with Bird Studies Canada and Couchiching Conservancy.

Technical Discussion on Ecology

Bill Galloway introduces Mark Cece from MMM Group and what will be discussed in the MMM Group presentation.

Ecology 101

Mark Cece begins presentation by explaining what ecology is, what ecologists look for and how ecologists do their work. Mark Cece explains that Dufferin retained him and his role is to look at the environment inside the pit and the surrounding area. He explains there will be ongoing work into next year. Mark Cece explains that the requirement for MMM Group is to follow the guidelines that would be used for a new license application under the ARA. MMM Group looks at subject property within 120m.

Standard Review Practices

Mark Cece explains that he and his team will undertake fieldwork investigations with technical staff to investigate specific habitats depending on the season. The investigations are seasonally dependent because different animals will use the land differently depending on the time of year. The protocols are designed to allow the investigators to observe the interaction between the habitat and species present during certain seasonal time periods (i.e. breeding season).

Natural Heritage Features & Fieldwork at Paris Pit

Mark Cece explains that he and his staff have been onsite to look at the ecology, beginning in April 2012. His staff looks at where the natural heritage features are located on the site (aquatic and forest habitat) that will likely provide the greatest opportunity for wildlife to be present.

The investigation for the entire licensed area has found that there are:



- NO provincially significant wetlands
- NO identified significant Valleylands
- NO Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest
- NO fish found at this time
- A significant woodland (larger than 4 ha)

Mark Cece explains that his team will continue to do investigations into 2013.

Aquatic Habitat – Ponds at South End of Property

Mark Cece describes the ponds at the south end of the property and that they do not appear to be connected to any surface watercourse. The ponds exhibit seasonal water level fluctuations depending on the time of year. The ponds fill with water in the spring (approximately 0.5 to 1m deep) and generally draw down over the summer. Due to the limited rainfall this year, the small pond was almost dry (Slides 14 & 15), demonstrating the natural fluctuation of the water level within the ponds.

Question One: Are you showing slides of only the two small ponds or also the large pond? Does the large pond water level decrease as well?

- Yes, it naturally fluctuates and reduces in size/depth during the summer months. These slides are showing the small pond (slide 15) and the big pond will exhibit a lower water level during the summer but will not completely dry up.
- Depending the season the images would be different. These images are a better indicator of the fluctuation.
- There is staff gauges installed in the both the large and small ponds as part of Dufferin's ongoing monitoring the change in levels with rainfall and natural occurrences.

Question Two: Is there any data from prior years? And how will you continue to monitor this moving forward, are you looking at the big picture?

- The staff gauge was installed this summer. Historic information regarding pond water level fluctuations may be available through a review of aerial photos.
- Boreholes to measure the water table near the ponds will be drilled.

Question Three: Have you compared your findings to the aerial photos?

- Not yet, this will be part of MMM's investigation. We do acknowledge that this has been a dry year.

Forest Habitat – Outside the Limit of Extraction & Former Gravel Pit and Rail Bed

Mark Cece explains the forest habitat and that there is evidence of common wildlife presence (list on slide 17) along with some recreational activities. He explains that there is a former gravel pit on the site and a railway, which were both active prior to Dufferin's ownership.

Agency Consultation and Field Work



Mark Cece explains the agencies that MMM Group has been in contact with while conducting their investigation. These organizations include:

- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mark Cece explains that so far MMM has ongoing work regarding vegetation surveys, fish community surveys and pond surveying (bathymetry). Fieldwork that will be undertaken in 2013 will consist of investigating reptiles, birds, wildlife and amphibians. The timing of these investigations will be based on seasonal protocols approved by the reviewing agencies and will commence in early spring and continue into the summer.

Gilbert Creek – Outside Limit of Extraction

Mark Cece explains that Gilbert Creek is outside of the limit of extraction and that Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) is approximately a minimum of 200m away from the property boundary line.

Question Four: Where does the flow for Gilbert Creek originate?

- Gilbert Creek originates in forested area south of Watts Pond Road and flows through the golf course to the Grand River.

Question Five: Where is the dam on Gilbert Creek?

- We do not know where it is. It is a manmade dam but we have not done extensive work in that area.

Mark Cece explains that MMM Group will continue to undertake work into summer 2013 and present those findings when they are available.

Environmental Enhancements

Bill Galloway explains that Dufferin is committed to ongoing monitoring, tracking and benchmarking in the area. Bill mentions that the existing environmental issues and concerns raised by the community are all outside of the limit of extraction. He explains that the Paris Pit monitoring plan will be the same care and practices as with all Dufferin operations. Dufferin is continuing to look at different enhancements for the Paris Pit, such as tree planting and progressive rehabilitation.

Bill Galloway provides an overview of the rehabilitation that has happened thus far at the Milton Quarry (slide 22). He explains that over 1000 acres of the land is being donated to Conservation Halton once the operation is finished and that it is a progressive process.

Discussion



Bill Gallwoay explains that Dufferin will continue to update the CAP on the ecological investigations and that Dufferin will answer any questions and concerns of the CAP and get them back to you as soon as possible.

Next Steps

Linda Smith explains that the Dufferin is waiting on the approved site amendment for the pit entrance and that the CAP will be notified of the PTTW submission.

Linda Smith provides dates to the CAP for upcoming meeting and topic (detailed site review). Linda Smith also suggests that another meetings could occur once the PTTW is submitted but that it is dependent on when that application is submitted.

Next CAP meeting: Tuesday, October 30th, 2012
Topic: Detailed site plan review

Questions

Question Six: How long do you think it will take to receive the PTTW?

- We are hoping to apply for it by the end of the year, go through all consultations. At that point we are in MOE hands and will hope they will move it along. We cannot predict this but we believe that you all will be pleased with the quality of work done on this application. This will be the most comprehensive application for PTTW in the province. Because it is so complex it may take the MOE some time to go through. The short answer is that it will be ready by summer 2013.

Question Seven: Are we able to send it to GRCA?

- We can ask the MOE to do that but it is up to them. We are going to ask the MOE to expedite the process so that we can address any of their concerns sooner than later.

Question Eight: Where do you plan to put the berms on Watts Pond Road?

- Kevin Mitchell reviews slide 13 to explain where the berms will be located around the houses closest to the pit. It will be a combination of tree screens and berms. The berms will be there for noise and trees will be there for visual.

Question Nine: What percentage of the land is in farm now and what percentage are ponds?

- Of the 615 acres Dufferin owns, approximately 470 acres is actively farmed

Question Ten: When there is that high a percentage of farmland then what is the significance of the ecology if it's all farmland and you take out the gravel. It seems that the ecology conservation becomes a very small part of the package.

- We do not have a lot of areas on our property that are not in farmland. We will focus on those areas to do some enhancements and then we are required to back to agriculture on the site plan but we will work with the community to decide what makes sense for the area.



- When the site plan is reviewed we can go over what areas will be rehabilitated at what time and what it will look like.

Question Eleven: When you complete the process, the whole area will be conditioned, there will not be a big hole?

- There will continue to be farming
- There is progressive rehabilitation as we extract the material. The aggregate is taken out and the soil is moved the other areas of the site to continually re-green the areas that were previously extracted.
- The area is not open at once it is done progressively.
- The MNR will not relinquish the license unless we progressively rehabilitate the area. We manage this financially by keeping financial resources meet commitments legally and will go beyond that to rehabilitate the area. It is part of our environmental commitments.

Question Twelve: How many acres is that pit? (Whistle Bare)

- Approximately 40 acres

Question Thirteen: Do you have good communications with Golf North, in the sense of protecting the area and new development? Is there an agreement of keeping natural features in the area?

- Dufferin has met with and provided them with the site plans of the Paris Pit.
- Dufferin has also worked with the golf course to address their encroachments onto Dufferin lands.

Question Fourteen: Will the 'hole' be directly behind the new houses? Will the berms be present? We are concerned that the extraction will hinder the housing development.

- That is the work of Golf North who is reviewing our site plan. We have suggested to Golf North to look at the noise considerations
- Golf North will be required to address the noise potential, not Dufferin.

Linda suggests adding a one slide – size and depth of the ponds. CAP did not see a need to have it added.

Question Fifteen: Could we see a topographical map?

- It is on our site plans, page two and the last page shows how the land will show how the land will look once it is rehabilitated.

Question Sixteen: Mark, how often will you be conducting your site visits?

- It will depend what we are looking at. It will depend how we set up our surveys and what our final work scope will be.
- We will likely be out here about 10 occasions in 2013. There is the potential for another site visit this year to occur for vegetation and pond water level observations during fall conditions.



Question Seventeen: How many times have you been out so far?

- About 5 times with multiple people involved.
- Fisheries, wildlife and vegetation technicians have visited the site.
- We have had 10-15 people days on site.

Question Eighteen: Did you visit the site during the summer?

- We did in March and April and again in September.
- We had to develop our fieldwork schedule and work scope and during this time, the suitable survey time period had lapsed. As a result, we will be back in the spring of 2013 to continue our data collection investigations.
- We have done what we can this summer (fisheries and vegetation) and will start again in the spring of 2013.

Question Nineteen: Have we done an archeologist study?

- This spring, when we first started thinking of opening the site, the farmer had already started farming the fields. We completed a stage 1 & 2 study on the west half of the site.
- They have found some areas that will require a stage 3 investigation. Dufferin will be investigation the whole site before extracting. Dufferin will make sure to present the archeology at a future CAP.

Question Twenty: Have you had discussion with the native groups?

- There has been one meeting and one discussion and provided a protocol for accommodation.
- We asked them for clarification and acknowledge that when we are in the process of application with other stakeholders, that we will engage with them along the way.
- We have tried to reach out with them but they have slow in response but we will continue to reach out.

Question Twenty-One: Have you had issues with native groups before?

- The only other time we have an inquiry was at the Cayuga Quarry. The MOE is in the process of completing their review of the First Nation community.
- It is an emerging issue the aggregate community

Question Twenty-Two: The 120 meters around the pit, how did this number come up?

- It is identified in the ARA as the area we are required to look at.
- The act specifies what we are to look at and how far around we will look at.

Fred Natolochny answers:

- GRCA see's the scope to be within 120 metres and that is correct. This is usually the farthest extend of a natural feature. This is not to say this how far the study should, could or would go, if we feel they need to go further then we will ask them to do that.
- If there is no impact within the 120 there is likely no impact outside of it.

Question Twenty-Three: Abandoned railway – from a legal viewpoint, has that rail line been legally process and all the rightful owners are in place and or not in place?

- We do know about that, beyond what we own.

Paris Pit



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Linda Smith thanks CAP members for coming and meeting is adjourned.