
Minutes of Meeting

City of Mississauga Cooksville Flooding Task Force

Meeting No. 9

Date: May 26, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Committee Room 'C', Civic Centre, City of Mississauga

Attendees:

City of Mississauga:

Mayor Hazel McCallion

Councillor Dale, Ward 4

Councillor Iannicca, Ward 7

Wendy Alexander, Transportation & Works

Lincoln Kan, Transportation & Works

Jeremy Blair, Transportation & Works

Muneef Ahmad, Transportation & Works

Andy Wickens, Community Services

Residents:

Helene Bahsous, Rhonda Valley

Roger Beaulieu, Nadine Crescent

Bob Bennett, Minette Circle

Greg Carraro, Paisley Blvd E.

Monique Gagnon, Kirwin Avenue

Connie McClure, Paisley Blvd. E.

Mike Pothier, Mississauga Valley Blvd

Jeanne McRight, Mineola Gardens

Richard Johnson, Nadine Crescent

Region of Peel:

Linda Petelka, Wastewater Division

Doug Inouye, Wastewater Division

Jennifer Rose, Wastewater Division

Ministry of Natural Resources:

Dave Burritt

Credit Valley Conservation:

John Kinkead, Water Resources

Phil James

Guests:

Dave Maunder, Aquafor Beech Limited

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda – Mayor McCallion

2. Approval of Previous Minutes – Jeremy Blair (City)

- Re: Cooksville Creek clean-up – Andy Wickens (City) advised that his staff will coordinate a Fall Clean-up Day with Councillor Tovey's office
- Re: Shepard Avenue properties – Lincoln Kan (City) noted that the property owner has advised staff that a development application will be coming forward, but nothing has been received to date
- Re: Nadine Crescent Overland Flow Route Improvement – the owner of one of the directly affected properties (Richard Johnson, 3377 Nadine Cres.) requested details on the project (a separate discussion took place

between Mr. Johnson and City staff after the meeting)

- Re: Kirwin Avenue properties – Monique Gagnon noted that there appears to be less garbage floating down the creek during large storm events. She also noted that the water level seems to peak at lower elevations during large storm events than it used to a few years ago (Staff noted that the Kirwin Avenue bridge was widened in 2007/08 to lower flood levels in this area)

3. Basement Flood Remediation Program Update – Linda Petelka (Region)

- Household Drainage Surveys (HHDS's) have now been completed for all of the houses which signed up for the service
- The Region has completed an exhaustive effort to encourage additional households impacted by flooding to take advantage of the HHDS program and the related subsidies
- Some statistics:
 - 443 residents were flooded in the Aug. 4, 2009 storm
 - 180 HHDS's have been completed
 - 28 homes were found to be cross-connected
 - 126 backwater valves have been recommended
 - 14 residents have taken advantage of the back water valve subsidy (not 50 as was mentioned at the meeting – *correction by Doug Inouye*)
 - 2 residents have installed sump pumps and received the subsidy
 - 2 residents have received subsidies for disconnecting their downspouts
- Roger Beaulieu noted that some residents are hesitant to install backwater valves because of their concerns with potential problems with the device and water under the basement floor slab in the long term
 - Doug noted that this may be an issue with the contractor's installation method
- The Region, City and CVC are jointly developing a strategy to expand the program, including a potential downspout disconnection program
- the manholes on Nadine Crescent have been sealed and the program is continuing in other target areas

4. Engineering Study – Update from the Consulting Team – Muneef Ahmad (City)

- Dave Maunder from Aquafor Beech provided a presentation on the initial findings of the study. Dave stressed that the purpose of the presentation was not to outline detailed flood remediation solutions, but to provide the Task Force with a big picture of the options and approaches, and to receive input, ideas and concerns from the Task Force

- In general, the approaches to flood remediation along the Cooksville Creek include: detention/storage of flood waters, channel and crossing conveyance improvements, removal of water through lot-level and conveyance system measures, and the diversion of excess flows out of the creek system (i.e. tunnel)
- Dave elaborated on these approaches with the following list of opportunities, for discussion:
 - flood detention/storage facilities upstream of Highway 403 on both publicly and privately owned lands
 - an in-stream flood detention/storage facility on the east branch of the creek between Burnhamthorpe Road and Mississauga Valley Boulevard and on the main branch between Kirwin Avenue and the CP Rail line
 - lot-level measures across the watershed, such as directing roof drainage to infiltration systems and the usage of permeable pavements, to be implemented by private land owners over time
 - conveyance-level (municipal right-of-way) measures, such as bio-retention systems to collect, treat and infiltrate water along roads, to be implemented by the City through Capital Works road projects
 - channel and culvert conveyance improvements downstream of Burnhamthorpe Road
 - a diversion tunnel to the Credit River, Etobicoke Creek or Lake Ontario may be technically feasible but cost prohibitive
- Regarding flood detention/storage facilities in parks, questions and concerns were raised by Andy Wickens (Community Services) and Councillor Dale with respect to community impacts
 - Dave M. emphasized that, if a dry pond approach were used, the parks would only be subject to temporary and infrequent periods of inundation and could still be used for active/passive recreational uses most of the time
 - Dave also noted that underground storage facilities are possible which would limit disturbances the park activities during the construction period only
- Regarding lot-level measures on residential properties, questions and concerns were raised by Roger Beaulieu with respect to cost and uptake
 - Dave indicated that, for example, the usage of permeable paving stones represents a 20% cost premium over asphalt, but it may be seen as an enhancement to property value
 - the notion to explore incentives was discussed at length – however Mayor McCallion advised that the City is not in a position to offer incentives for lot-level measures on private properties at this time and that the focus of the study should remain on the big-picture solutions
 - Councillor Dale suggested that it may be effective to bring insurance companies to the table given that money spent on flood remediation works is expected to result in fewer claims in the long-term

- Dave emphasized that there is no “silver bullet” solution to the flooding problem – a combination of solutions will be required – and lot-level measures will represent just one piece of the puzzle
- Dave also noted that lot-level measures will have the additional benefit of reducing creek erosion and the maintenance/capital improvement costs associated with addressing erosion problems
- Regarding creek flows, Mayor McCallion requested that the study look at the slow release of water from storage facilities (to create baseflow) during dry periods
- Jeanne McRight advised that a group of residents from the Mineola Gardens area have been working with CVC’s Outreach staff to obtain plant materials to install along the creek but were advised that coordination will be required with the City given that this study is underway
 - the efforts of the Mineola group were commended
 - City, CVC and Region staff will endeavour to work with this group
- Regarding timing, the consulting team will come back to the Task Force in September and is aiming to finalize its recommendations in October
- The overall impression of the Task Force is that the study is on the right track, good progress has been made, but the study must continue to press ahead without delay. Mayor McCallion stressed the urgency and importance of this study
- With respect to the potential flood remediation solutions, the following thoughts were given:
 - storage/detention of flows is a generally favorable concept and should continue to be explored in greater detail
 - lot-level measures will be challenging to implement on a wide scale
 - a diversion tunnel does not appear to be practical
 - conveyance improvements should continue to be explored
- As a next step, the study will also delve into the assessment of benefits/costs of the potential solutions as part of the decision matrix to be developed and utilized by the study

5. Next Steps

- The next Task Force meeting will be held in September. The date, time and location will be provided by Jeremy.

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