

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2016
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	ONE RIVER - MASTER PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer, the One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference attached hereto as Appendix "A" **BE APPROVED.**

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Planning and Environment Committee – December 14, 2015 – Back to the River Design Competition

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – January 28, 2016 – Downtown Infrastructure Planning and Coordination

Civic Works Committee – February 2, 2016 – West London Dyke Master Repair Plan Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

Civic Works Committee – February 2, 2016 – Springbank Dam

Civic Works Committee – March 8, 2016 - One River - Master Plan Environmental Assessment

Municipal Council - March 22, 2016 - One River- Master Plan Environmental Assessment: Background Information

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan identifies these objectives under Building a Sustainable City: 1B – Managing our infrastructure; 3E -- Strong and Healthy environment through protection of the natural environment; 4E – Beautiful places and spaces through investing in making London's riverfront beautiful and accessible for all Londoners. Under Growing our Economy: 2A – promote Urban regeneration through investing in London's downtown as the heart of our city.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

After a series of reports in early 2016, Municipal Council directed that due to the broader social, economic and natural environment issues associated with the Springbank Dam and Back to the River projects, both projects be studied together through a One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment. This report provides a Terms of Reference for this study as directed by Council on May 17, 2016.

Context

Since the direction by Council on May 17th, 2016, Staff has engaged in a series of meetings with all of the key agencies and with the interested First Nations communities to discuss the Terms of Reference document. The document, included as Appendix 'A' One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference, benefited from the comments and suggestions received during these meetings.

The goal of the Terms of Reference is to provide a high-level road map for the One River Environmental Assessment process. The following sections provide an outline of the project's budget, a list of key Council decision points and project milestones as requested in the May 17th, 2016 resolution of Council.

DISCUSSION

At its meeting on May 17, 2016, Council considered a staff report regarding the One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) approach. Council passed a resolution that included the following direction:

That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to develop a Terms of Reference and budget for a consultant to complete a One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) Study that would encompass an area from the Boler Road bridge to the Forks of the Thames and Harris Park, having regard to the Thames Valley Corridor Plan, the City of London's Official Plan, Species at Risk and any other relevant data and report back to the Civic Works Committee with the draft Terms of Reference, including time lines and decision making points for the Study for approval; it being understood that proceeding with this EA would not preclude a decision to decommission the Springbank Dam should the Municipal Council choose to do so.

Meetings with Regulators

Since that time, Civic Administration has met with key regulatory approval agencies including the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on several occasions to obtain input and comments in the Terms of Reference document. In addition, a meeting was held with the London Community Foundation in order to present the Terms of Reference and consider their comments.

First Nations Communities

Through a series of pre-consultation meetings, several of the First Nations communities expressed interest in the One River EA projects. Several of the First Nations communities that have expressed interest are in the process of developing formalized consultation and accommodation processes. Once finalized, One River Master Plan consultation can be aligned with these processes.

It should be noted that it is common that formal consultation/accommodation protocols include a fee schedule or work plan process to cover review costs. It is likely that the processes being brought forward by the First Nations communities engaged in the One River EA Master Plan will include provisions for cost recovery.

One River Environmental Assessment Budget

Through the multi-year budget process, \$900k was budgeted to support the Environmental Assessment costs related to the One River Master Plan Environmental Assessment. It is anticipated at this time that this budget will be sufficient to conclude the required environmental assessment process. Following adoption of the Terms of

Reference a two-stage Request for Qualification and Request for Proposal process will be undertaken to select the project consultant team as per the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. Once this process has concluded, a report recommending the appointment of the consultant team with further details on the associated fees, schedule and work program will be submitted to committee.

Municipal Council/Committee Key Decision Points

Council will have numerous opportunities to provide direction throughout the One River EA process. As requested in the May 17, 2016 resolution, clear direction was provided requesting a list of key decision-making points for the One River EA. Council/Committee will have the following opportunities to provide direction:

- **Terms of Reference:** As directed on May 17, 2016, a study Terms of Reference has been prepared and is presented in this report for Council approval.
- **Consultant Appointment:** Following a two stage procurement process, a report will be submitted to the Civic Works Committee recommending a consultant be appointed to undertake the One River Master Plan EA.
- **Setting the Problem/Opportunity Statement:** A report will be submitted to the Civic Works Committee recommending a Problem/Opportunity Statement for the One River Master Plan EA. The agenda would also include a Public Participation Meeting component to receive comments from the various public and stakeholders consulted in its preparation.
- **Alternative Selection:** A report will be submitted to the Civic Works Committee that will summarize the alternative options being considered. This report will be submitted in coordination with the first Public Information Centre.
- **Preferred Alternative Selection:** A report will be submitted to the Civic Works Committee that will include a recommended Preferred Alternative and request direction to undertake final public consultation to conclude the One River Master Plan EA process.

Project Time-Lines

The completion of the One River EA is intended to be a thorough process that addresses a number of planned and potential projects within and around the Thames River in central London. The proposed timeline for the completion of each proposed study phase and a list of key decision points are listed below, and may be subject to change based on the consultant's work plan, future direction by Council, further direction by the key regulators, or outcomes of the public/First Nations consultation process:

Civic Works Committee Decision on the Terms of Reference:	November 1, 2016
Approval of One River EA Consultant Appointment by Civic Works Committee:	Late Q1 to early Q2 2017
Completion of Phase One (Problem/Opportunity Statement):	May 2017
Completion of Phase Two (Assess Alternative Solutions):	February 2018
Finalize One River Master Plan EA and seek Council endorsement:	May 2018

As the One River Master Plan EA includes a large number of highly technical and regulatory complex components, and natural environment data collection over multiple seasons, the actual completion date may change during the course of the study.

Updated timelines and schedules will be provided to Council as part of each One River EA committee report.

Next Steps

Following adoption of the Terms of Reference, an open Request for Qualification will be issued for the One River EA consultant team. Following the short-listing of received submissions, a Request for Proposal process will be undertaken to a short-listed group of consultants.

The detailed Request for Proposal documents will be built upon the Terms of Reference and will outline the technical requirements of the study by providing:

- a comprehensive description of all required environmental inventory work;
- key project tasks and deliverables; and
- a comprehensive project schedule.

A report will be submitted to committee in late Q1 to early Q2 2017 requesting approval of the consultant team.

CONCLUSION

The terms of reference attached as Appendix 'A' incorporates feedback and comments collected over several months of consultation with regulatory agencies, London Community Foundation, and the First Nations Communities. Following approval of the terms of reference, a two stage Request for Qualification and Request for Proposal process will be undertaken leading to a consultant appointment anticipated to be brought back to committee in late Q1 to early Q2 2017.

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED AND CONCURRED BY:
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Attach: Appendix 'A' – One River Master Plan EA: Terms of Reference

cc. G. Belch, A. Macpherson, J. Fleming, A. Zuidema