

Meeting: Hanlon Creek Business Park – Construction of Municipal Services
City of Guelph – Ministry of Natural Resources
August 5, 2009

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss and agree upon appropriate next steps to address issues raised in the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) letter of July 31, 2009.

Attendance at Meeting: Mayor Farbridge, Hans Loewig, Jim Riddell, Peter Cartwright and Rajan Philips (City of Guelph), and Ian Hagman, Guelph District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources.

Location: City of Guelph offices.

Agreed Action:

1. The City could recommence and complete the construction of the Road-A culvert crossing in the Hanlon Creek Business Park (HCBP). The work on culvert construction was started on July 6, 2009, but has been interrupted by protestors/occupiers. The work will be undertaken with due diligence and supervision consistent with the objectives of the Endangered Species Act (ESA 2007). It is recognized that the culvert construction is time-sensitive as it must be completed before mid-September in accordance with MNR requirement to avoid coldwater fish and fish habitat impacts and does not contravene existing legislation.
2. MNR and City staff and the City's consultants will continue the process to address the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA 2007) for the construction of the remainder of the municipal services in the HCBP. Specifically, additional investigations required to determine the extent and location of potential Jefferson Salamander habitats in the HCBP will be identified and undertaken. These will include minnow trap inventory in March-April 2010, and appropriate movement studies. The City will continue to work with MNR towards developing an 'agreement process' under the ESA, if time permits, to guide future works in the event Jefferson Salamander habitats are identified in the HCBP.
3. In consultation with MNR, City staff and consultants will prepare a staged construction schedule for the remainder of the municipal servicing works to identify areas of construction work that could be undertaken immediately after the culvert construction without adversely impacting potential habitat locations in the HCBP. These areas will primarily include off-site works, work within existing road rights-of-way, and limited grading and stormwater management works. Work in these areas will be undertaken in consultation with MNR staff.
4. It was noted that the Endangered Species Act provides flexible mechanisms for guiding and accommodating development work around endangered species habitat areas. The City affirmed its commitment to meet all provincial requirements, consistent with its own environmental policies and priorities.

5. The ministry of Natural Resources is committed to working with the City to address the wildlife habitat issues at the HCBP. The Ministry considers this project a high priority.