

**BOWNESS FLOOD BARRIER
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP**

**Meeting 4 – July 29, 2019 – 7 to 10 p.m.
Bowness Community Association – Studio Room**

Working Group Attendees

Sheila Clayden
David Burton
Sydney Empson
Jacqui Esler
Jane Kahler
Rae McKenzie
Hank Vrielek
Jean Woeller
Josie Stiles

Working Group Resources

Judy Hoad
Mariel Higuerey
Denise Noguiera
Frances Welsh

Guests

Dave Hayman
Jason Duxbury
Fred Hemmerling

Apologies

Patti Peck
Jeff Riedl
Anne Campbell

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

2. Review of notes of Meeting 3

- Members will send emails separately to Judy with notes
- accepted with revisions

Outstanding Action Item – circulation of draft Engagement Plan

3. Biophysical Impact Assessment overview - Presentation – Dave Hayman, The City of Calgary, Parks

- Copy of Presentation attached as appendix
- Every single project under jurisdiction of The City of Calgary follows the City's BIA Framework
- The Bowness Barrier project has completed the Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA) – a desktop review. The Working group asked if the information could be shared with the public.
 - The City will share with the group and will also post on the project website
- Each project reviewed under the BIA Frameworks is unique and will require different studies depending on what the PSA shows and what elements are triggered.

- Once the project footprint is identified, Parks looks at the specific requirements and contacts the Province if needed. For example, if the project goes into the water, they will check on Water Act requirements.
 - The Bowness Barrier project will be submitted to the Province once it reaches the detailed design phase. To date, no Environmental Impact Assessment has been requested for barrier projects at The City.
 - The City's Parks department – specifically Environmental Planning - is the reviewer and approver for projects in Calgary under the BIA Framework
- The BIA scope is holistic, meaning it goes beyond the subject site to look at upstream and downstream conditions and risks
 - Most BIAs typically require a couple of iterations before the City approves them
 - Archeological assessments are part of the BIA framework
- KCB has already started some of the environmental studies as data must be collected at particular/proper times. This information will feed into the conceptual and preliminary design of the barrier. The project is not following the conceptual design provided by the Associated Engineering report
 - To date, rare plants, soil and amphibian studies are underway. Later in the year, the second round of rare plants and fish habitat will be completed
 - BRFM indicate there are properties with significant features that need to be considered. KCB explained each study has standard protocols that must be followed to avoid issues like double counting. The studies are built using the City's databases to determine key biophysical areas (sensitives) that must be included in the studies' scope
 - BRFM will share the location of those significant properties for KCB to review/consider
 - BRFM representative said they were told that The City will not build the barrier on the riparian habitat. The riparian bank is for the property owner to manage; however, owners say the project will affect their ability to protect the bank and further maintenance outside of the floodway is the responsibility of the owner
 - The City representative advised that BRFM is not accurately stating what was discussed in the meeting held October 25, 2018. The City advised that with the proposed location of the barrier to be on the floodway line or farther outside. The current modeling results will be shared when completed but preliminary results are confirming this.
 - *ADDITION post meeting: The meeting between The City and the BRFM on Oct 25, 2018 stated: "The City advised that erosion protection will be included in the barrier design to prevent damage to the structure over its lifetime. Separate erosion protection on private river banks that is not determined to provide protection to the structure over its lifetime will not*

be included in the barrier project. Property owners along the river are responsible for their banks. “

- The Working Group will participate in informal presentations about the environmental studies findings as the project moves forward. The full BIA report will take a while as it won't be submitted until the detailed design is complete. Furthermore, it can't be released to the public until Parks approves it.
- BRFM indicated a number of questions related to the environmental concerns were submitted in May 2019 and expressed frustration at the lack of response
 - Denise responded that the team is overwhelmed with over 250 email questions from three BRFM members and responses will be sent as information is available
 - There is an intention to make all questions and answers public – to be posted on either/both The City's and the Working Group's website
 - Dave Hayman indicated the questions were excellent and would help with the scoping of the BIA when that is done
- The City's Engage page posts wildlife sightings, native plant and tree species that are submitted: the page is still active at <https://engage.calgary.ca/bowness-flood-barrier-project> . If the website does not work for members of the public, we can email the photos to BownessBarrier@calgary.ca.
- Links to The City's documents:
 - Appendix D Open Space Plan – BIA requirements:
<https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Documents/Planning-and-Operations/open-space-plan.pdf?noredirect=1>
 - BIA Framework – in the process of being updated:
<https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Documents/Construction/biophysical-impact-assessment-framework.pdf?noredirect=1>

4. Terms of Reference

Version 3 – to be revised with input submitted and recirculated for discussion at the next meeting

5. Peer Review of Reports and Studies

In response to a request of the Working Group and BRFM, Denise presented The City's approach to incorporating peer review of studies into the project. She asked

that members forward suggested names of firms/individuals who could be invited to



Proposed Bowness Attm-Guidelines to
Barrier-PeerReview_ Reviewing the Work

respond to the pending RFP.

6. Concerns/issues recorded during discussion

- The project has a new touchpoint with Council in 2020. At that time, Council will advise if the information collected to date is sufficient to continue to move forward or additional engagement and studies are required
 - The Bowness Barrier project is not a done deal. One of the possible outcomes is that it will not move forward and other community mitigation options need to be looked at
- BRFM does not accept 1,230 cubic meters is a good flow (inadequate). Documents and studies say don't build barriers without upstream mitigation
 - The Province is currently conducting a conceptual assessment of upstream mitigation for the Bow. We will have a better understanding of the Province plans in the Fall of 2019
- The project team will prepare a timeline with decision points, so the public and Working Group are better informed
- A Working Group member mentioned the groundwater video from The City's project webpage was removed. The video was temporarily removed to add clarity, explaining the video is general and not specific to Bowness or ground conditions. It should be back working on the project webpage
- Several members expressed the desire to have Councillor Sutherland attend the meetings and hear discussion taking place
 - Project Team shares updates and meeting notes with the Councillor
 - After the BRFM meetings earlier this year Councillor Sutherland requested Ralph stay informed and he would probably support Ralph's attendance to the Working Group meetings – Denise to follow up
 - Working Group could extend an invitation to the Councillor for specific discussions
- Terms of Reference need to be finalized and should be the main item in the next meeting
- Need additional representation from businesses and broader community

7. Future topics and meeting dates

- Next meeting September 9 – Agenda Topics
 - Finalize Terms of Reference
 - City's Decision-making process
 - Recent survey results

- Engagement Plan for next phase
- Future topics:
 - Flow and river modelling
 - Groundwater info base and separate results

Attachments

BIA Presentation

Peer Review Proposal