



File: 3028
By: Email & Mail

September 17, 2013

Grand River Conservation Authority
400 Clyde Road
P.O. Box 729
Cambridge, Ontario
N1R 5W6

Attention: Mr. Fred Natolochny, MCIP, RPP
Supervisor of Resource Planning

Dear: Mr. Natolochny

Re: Hidden Quarry Site Meeting Notes

We have reviewed your July 15, 2013 comments on the June 7th Site Meeting Notes and offer the following explanations to the concerns raised by your staff. At this time we will also respond to any outstanding GRCA comments that we feel have not been fully addressed in previous correspondence. Our responses are consistent with the numbering sequence used in the Meeting Notes.

Point #1 – The boundary of the woodland area to be retained in the southeast corner of the site was based on the maturity of forest stands, terrain considerations and a blasting setback of 165m from the existing off-site residences, particularly the house located northeast of FOM2-2 and southeast of FOD5-7. As indicated at our site meeting, this boundary was shifted further westward to the base of the steep slope that forms the most westerly limit of FOM2-2. It was also agreed to shift the boundary in FOD5-7 further northward to protect a mature sugar maple tree, assuming the tree remains reasonably healthy at the time when tree clearing commences in Phase 2. In any event, virtually all of the mature mixedwood and deciduous forest stands (FOM 2-2 and FOD 5-7) will be retained, as well as most of the mature upland cedar stand (FOC 2-2) and portions of the conifer plantation CUP3-12a and CUP3-12d. The cedar stand is mostly being retained due to the 165m setback required from the off-site residence and the 20 to 30m setbacks recommended from the stream.

With respect to linkages to off-site natural areas, this issue was not discussed at our meeting but it was raised by Peter Williams on behalf of the County. We have attached our response to Mr. Williams concerns for your review.

Point #2 - We understand that agreement/approval of proposed setbacks was not an objective of the site visit from your perspective. Rationale supporting the recommended setbacks from Tributary B and Wetland MAM3-2 was previously provided by GWS and Harden Environmental as shown in #93 of the Comment Matrix assembled by James Dick Construction (JDC). In addition, Stan Denhoed has confirmed that over the past 15


years flooding in the stream valley would not exceed the proposed setback elevations as discussed in his September 9, 2013 correspondence (attached). It is therefore concluded that flood waters will always be confined to the area within the residual stream valley. If you still have concerns with these setbacks please clarify your position with specific details so we may better understand the concern.

Point #7&8 – The boundaries of the man-made wetland MAM2-5 and SWT2-2 within the former wayside pit were not staked or flagged in advance of the site meeting because 0.2 ha of this wetland is proposed for removal to accommodate quarry development while the balance of the area is proposed for enlargement and deepening, particularly in the area now occupied by a gravel stockpile that is to be removed. Since the boundaries of the residual wetland will change when the gravel stockpile is removed there was little merit in trying to precisely identify the future wetland area. Furthermore, this area will be within the protected zone as shown on the Operations and Rehabilitation Plans. In any event, GRCA staff concluded there was no need to enhance the wetland area which they felt should simply be maintained in its current condition. JDC agreed not to carry out any wetland enhancement work other than the removal of the gravel stockpile.

We trust the above information adequately addresses the comments received to date.

Yours truly,

GWS Ecological & Forestry Services Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Scheifele". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey rectangular background.

Greg W. Scheifele, M. A., R.P.F.
Principal Ecologist/Forester

cc: Greg Sweetnam, James Dick Construction Limited
Leigh Mugford, James Dick Construction Limited