

**Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) Neighbourhood  
Liaison Committee (NLC)  
Meeting #103**

Mennonite New Life Centre, 1774 Queen Street East  
September 25, 2012  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Karen Buck	NLC Co-Chair, Citizens for a Safe Environment
Karey Shinn	NLC Co-Chair, Safe Sewage Committee
David Done	Beaches Resident, Safe Sewage Committee
Dan Olsen	Resident
Rod Adams	Ministry of the Environment
Edyth Gerrard	Beach Triangle Residents Association
Hans Looije	Greater Beaches Neighbourhood Association
Phil Giddings	Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club
Sean Partington	Black and Veatch Consulting
Alison Chan	Black and Veatch Consulting

**CITY OF TORONTO:**

Shabbir Dattoo	Former ABTP Engineer
Scott Wilton	ABTP Engineer
Josie Franch	Public Consultation Unit

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Karey Shinn** called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

- **Review and approval of agenda**

**David Done** requested that updates on the outfall and UV be added to the agenda. **Scott Wilton** said that he would provide these updates in section 4 of the agenda.

**Karen Buck** said that she and Karey Shinn would provide an update on some of the Environmental Assessments, under New Business.

**Shabbir Dattoo** introduced Scott Wilton, an engineer at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant, who will now act as the representative for the plant at the NLC meetings. **Karey Shinn** welcomed Scott Wilton.

**2. Presentation by Black and Veatch Consultants**

- **Refurbishment of M&T Pump Stations**

**Sean Partington** from Black and Veatch Consulting gave a 30-minute presentation on the refurbishment of the M and T pump stations. He provided an update on what has been happening with the pumping stations and explained why an upgrade is required. He informed the committee that there would be an open house at the end of October to publicly provide information on this project and describe the Environmental Assessment (EA) process that the study will follow.

### **Questions and Answers:**

**Hans Looije** asked if the electrical control of the pump stations could be consolidated into one building. **Sean Partington** replied that all of the options that are being considered would likely have the electrical control in one building. He explained that an electrical facility must first be built in order to make any changes to the existing pump stations, so that other things can be taken off-line while the work is being done.

**David Done** asked if a Wet Weather Flow pumping station could be used as a temporary station. **Sean Partington** said that this is being considered. The Wet Weather Flow pumping station could be built first, and then the T pumping station would be taken down, followed by the M station. The only problem with this is that the M pumping station is the oldest and has the most challenges; therefore work should begin sooner rather than later. The idea behind this option is that if a deep shaft is going to be built for the Wet Weather Flow pumping station, it could be made a little bigger to accommodate this specific project, then construction for the pump stations would ultimately disturb fewer places and from an operations stand point, might be a better long-term option.

**Dan Olsen** asked if the purpose of the EA was to select the preferred alternative. **Sean Partington** said that it was, and that the first step is to present the options and effectively categorize the impacts each one may have from an environmental, economic, archeological, sociological, etc. perspective.

**Karey Shinn** asked about whether it would be possible to increase the speed of the pumping, which currently operates on gravitational feed. She asked if the new alternatives would offer benefits to the system in terms of the volume and speed of the water flowing through them. **Sean Partington** said that yes, there would be improvements in this area. He added that there is a certain amount of treatment capacity available and it would make the most sense to have separated flow so that primary sewage could be treated as quickly as possible, before storm water. The reason for this is that storm water has a lower Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) so it can sit in a tunnel longer than primary sewage, and then be fed into the plant more slowly so that the impact on the plant is less intense. The design of the pumping stations will consider this and the consultants are working with different pump manufactures to determine the best option in terms of size, number of pumps and how much back up would be required. There is a lot of detail going into these considerations.

**Karey Shinn** asked if the consultants would be making recommendations to the City on how people should deal with fall leaves, because they collect in the sewers and cause a huge problem in the system. **Sean Partington** replied that unfortunately, recommending by-laws is probably not

in his jurisdiction. Only a part of a pumping station has a screening facility to prevent leaves from getting in; the rest of them do not. Some of the leaves pass through the pumps and get stuck in the downstream screens. Ashbridges Bay is putting in new head works with screens to filter out things like leaves. **Karey Shinn** expressed concern that a lot of money will be spent on new pumping facilities, which will then fill up with leaves.

**Karey Shinn** discussed the different constituents in storm water such as salt, silt, etc. which wear down the pumps. Sanitary sewage does not contain these constituents in a separated system. If the combined sewer overflows (CSOs) were kept away from the sanitary sewage as much as possible, the equipment would last longer. The system should be dedicated to sanitary sewage, not combined sewers. **Sean Partington** agreed that this should be part of the long-term solution.

**Phil Giddings** asked for an explanation about the relationship between the outflows that go into Coatsworth Cut and the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant. **Sean Partington** said that he did not think he could accurately answer that question. However, he suspects that the outflow at Coatsworth Cut is coming from the storm system, which has been separated from the sewer flow. **Phil Giddings** said that he operates a sailing school in the area and there appears to be all kinds of sewage being dumped in the area, especially after a storm.

**Karey Shinn** explained that the reason there is combined sewer overflow being dumped at Coatsworth Cut is because there is not enough capacity in the pumps to handle the volume of water after a large storm, and the system gets backed up. In other systems where the sanitary flow is pumped more quickly, there is less combined sewer overflow. **Phil Giddings** wants to be sure that the new plan for the pumps will address this concern and the outflow at Coatsworth Cut. **Sean Partington** explained that before a heavy rainstorm occurs, the pumping in the pump stations is increased, to provide extra time for the extra water coming down the pipes. **Karey Shinn** said that the outfall at Coatsworth Cut is another issue that should be addressed with UV disinfection at the plant. The purpose is to make sure that all the sewage is going where it is supposed to go – the treatment plant.

**Karey Shinn** asked what the size and capacity of the sewage plant would have to be to accommodate the volume coming in from the pipes. **Sean Partington** replied that the project would be designed so that the current size of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant would be able to accommodate the volume. The current capacity of the plant is 2200 MLD and that is what the design will be based on. This work is being done by John Stevenson, who has worked on pumping stations in 45 countries and will be available next month to answer some of the technical questions about the flows and future flow requirements.

**David Done** commented that the enhancements to the pumping stations should be sized according to the volume of the outfall. **Rod Adams** explained that the plant has certain limitations, and the volume and speed can't be increased beyond the existing capacity.

**David Done** said that the upgrades to the pumping stations could be an opportunity to build a larger capacity for the CSO outfall. **Sean Partington** said that they are trying to design the project based on past experiences while looking towards future capacity requirements. **David Done** added that secondary bypass to remove the sediment from the CSO is also important. **Rod Adams** explained that it is challenging to achieve optimal speed and treatment at the same time; the best

design is to maximize the capacity through the plant with the maximized treatment without changing the footprint of the plant itself. The process is very multilayered.

**Karen Buck** said that because of increased water during storms, it is important to have a sewage system that is partially separated. **Sean Partington** said that being able to stabilize the plant during these increased peaks leads to a better quality of treatment. **Rod Adams** said that the purpose of the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan is to limit the surges through the plant when there is an increased wet weather flow.

**Karen Buck** asked when and where the public open house would be for this project. **Josie Franch** replied that it is tentatively scheduled for the evening of October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Mennonite New Life Centre. **Josie Franch** added that the public open house is a required part of the EA process and a notice would be sent out to the community once the details are confirmed. There would be an opportunity for the public to comment on the options put forward at the meeting. **Karen Buck** suggested that there should be an organized presentation followed by a question and answer period, because an open house format is usually not very helpful.

### 3. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Meeting # 102, February 28, 2012

**David Done** requested that Safe Sewage Committee be added to his name in the attendance list.

**Karen Buck** requested that the sentence on page 2 stating, “*Karen Buck approved the minutes*” be changed to “*Karen Buck moved the approval of the minutes.*”

**David Done** requested that preceding the motion regarding the skateboard park on page 11 of the minutes, it be stated that David Done had suggested the motion.

**Karey Shinn** moved that the minutes be approved with the amendments. **David Done** seconded the motion. **Karen Buck** moved the approval of the minutes.

**Phil Giddings** inquired about the Waterfront Landforms Study that is available online. The study discusses adding a big piece of wetland behind Ashbridges Bay to possibly divert the sewage that is occasionally going into Coatsworth Cut. **Phil Giddings** explained that he is concerned about the sanitary sewage not getting to the plant and being dumped into Coatsworth Cut. He would like to know where to go and who to contact about these concerns.

**Karey Shinn** suggested that the NLC request a presentation by the City on this study. **Karen Buck** asked **Josie Franch** to find out more information about the pending study from Ted Bowering.

<b>Action Item #1:</b> <b>Josie Franch</b> to find out more information about the Waterfront Landforms Study.
---

**Josie Franch** contacted Ted Bowering and was told that the only information currently

available is what is included in the Staff Report (February 29, 2012). Work can begin once the 2013 Capital Budget is approved. At that time, staff will agree on a scope of work, timelines, key stakeholders and points of public consultation under the Environmental Assessment process.

Disposition: Complete

#### **4. Mini-Updates**

- Odour Control Project

**Scott Wilton** reported that the D building is still under construction and should be completed and operational by August 2013. The tender documents are now being finalized for the P building; construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2013 and should take about 3 years to complete. The odour control work being done on the aeration tanks is ongoing and should be completed by the summer of 2013. The upgrade to aeration tank 2 has been slightly delayed and the construction on the pilot tank (tank 2) will be starting in the fall of 2013 and should take about a year and a half to two years.

The truck loading biofilter upgrades are now in the preliminary design phase. Construction will begin in the fall of 2013 and should take two years to complete. The media in the biofilters has just been replaced.

In terms of the EA, the outfall modeling is ongoing and the RFP for the UV disinfection will be brought to the ICMC steering committee in late Fall 2012 or early Winter 2013.

**Karey Shinn** inquired about the outfall modeling being done for the EA outfall study. **Scott Wilton** replied that they are doing lake modeling, current modeling, and geotech (among other studies), which will take about two years to complete.

**Karey Shinn** asked if the is pelletizer was working. **Scott Wilton** said that yes, both trains were working and are only shut down occasionally for maintenance.

**Karey Shinn** asked if there had been any recent bypasses. **Scott Wilton** explained that just after Labour Day there was a bypass after a big storm. There have been nine bypasses in 2012.

**Karen Buck** asked if bypasses were being reported monthly. **Scott Wilton** said that bypasses are reported as soon as they happen.

**Karen Buck** asked **Rod Adams** if he was allowed to provide the NLC with the bypass reports the City gives to the Ministry of the Environment. **Rod Adams** said that this was not a problem; the Ministry receives the reports from the City and he would be able to provide these reports to the NLC if the committee was not receiving them from the City.

**Scott Wilton** explained that the initial draft of the bypass reports is not consider final until they are reported in the annual report.

**David Done** asked about how much of the biosolids were now going to the landfill in London. **Scott Wilton** believes that they are now getting 70% of beneficial use from the biosolids, including both pellets and land application.

## 5. Review of Action Items & Motions

**Karey Shinn** reviewed the Action Items.

- **Meeting 88 #2: Karen Buck/Karey Shinn to write a letter on behalf of the NLC to Toronto Water requesting a response on all pending motions.**

**Karey Shinn** said she thought the motions went to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee, but apparently they do not. **Karen Buck** and **Karey Shinn** would like to look into this further.

Disposition: Ongoing

- **Meeting 101 #1: Shabbir Dattoo to provide six additional hard copies of the Terms of Reference for the peer review of the Disinfection EA.**

Disposition: Complete

- **Meeting 102#1: Shabbir Dattoo to find out how many trains are currently operational and what the capacity per train is.**

**Scott Wilton** said that both trains are running at this time. The maximum capacity for the facility is about 25 thousand dry tones per year.

Disposition: Complete

- **Meeting 102#3: NLC Co-Chairs to forward Meeting #102 Motion #1 to City Council and the Parks Department.**

**David Done** reported the funding for the skateboard park was received from a separate source. **Scott Wilton** added that the fence is up and the bulldozers are ready to begin construction on this project.

Disposition: Complete

## 6. New Business

**David Done** discussed a letter received by the ICMC from Frank Quarisa on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. The letter focused on restricting the ICMC's role and also included a paragraph stating that the NLC will continue to meet as required, specifically to present ABTP plant specific initiatives. This notice is somewhat contrary to the mediation agreement of 1999. He added that he would like to pass a motion to include issues related to wastewater management and infrastructure, and the associated sewer shed.

**David Done** put forward the following motion:

***Meeting #103 Motion #1:***

*Whereas the Mediation Agreement (1999) set the Terms of Reference of the ABTP-NLC to encompass ABTP EA compliance issues, be it resolved that contrary to Toronto Water's letter (signed and delivered by Frank Quarisa, Director, Wastewater Treatment) limiting the roles of both the ICMC and the ABTP-NLC, that the ABTP-NLC's Terms of Reference should include not only ABTP plant specific issues, but also those issues associated with the wastewater collection infrastructure in the associated sewersheds that carry flows to the ABTP.*

**Hans Looije** seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

**David Done** said that the motion should now go to Public Works & Infrastructure Committee and Toronto Water. **Karen Buck** volunteered to send out the motion.

- **Odour Reporting Form**

**Karen Buck** had asked Toronto Staff to develop a standard protocol for odour reporting for the ABTP. She informed the NLC that the MOE has a standard form for odour reporting and it would be very beneficial for the City to use this same form. She received a copy of the provincial government's MOE odour complaint form from Rod Adams

**Rod Adams** explained that the odour complaint form is universal; if an odour is suspected to be coming from the plant, the form will be used. However, it does not really matter where the odour is coming from – if an odour is problematic, it should still be documented. The purpose of the form is to grade the severity of detected odours and have documentation about when these odours occur.

**Karen Buck** would like to see a process that involves the verification of where an odour is coming from, with respect to the ABTP. **Karey Shinn** suggested having descriptive terms to characterize the odours on the odour complaint form to help identify the source. **Karey Shinn** provided a list of characteristic odours that she found on the Internet, which could be used as a reference.

**Rod Adams** explained that it would be helpful to have this list as a point of reference to be able to help determine what compound was responsible for the odours.

**Karen Buck** recommended that the ABTP use the MOE's odour complaint reporting form for all odour complaints, including prompts describing what the smell is like, to help the staff at the plant take down accurate information when an odour complaint call is made.

**Karen Buck** put forward the following motion:

**Meeting #103: Motion #2:**

The NLC is recommending that the Ashbridges Bay incident reporting form, containing a prompt on the back with a list of different odour characteristic references, be used to record odour information when the plant receives an odour complaint.

**Edyth Gerrard** seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

- Environmental Assessments & Other Projects

**Kerey Shinn** said that there were some issues about the Don River and Central Waterfront Project as well as the Basement Flooding Study Area 32 EA that she wanted to discuss. **Karen Buck** explained that this demonstrates the NLC's involvement with more than just what is happening on the ABTP site, but also the sewer shed that is fed into it. The NLC should be aware of the investigation into chronic basement flooding in the area and the EA that has just been completed. The City has provided the NLC with part of this document; she and Kerey Shinn will go through the document, including the technical memorandums, so that they will be able to answer any questions pertaining to the study. **Josie Franch** added that the document is available on line and in the local libraries. **Karen Buck** said that everything but the technical memorandums were in the online document. The studies provide good visual information and mapping that are difficult to see on a computer. She has requested a hard copy of the Don River and Central Waterfront document for the NLC, but has not yet received it.

**Karen Buck** reported that there is a proposed provincial initiative (Bill 100), which is an act to protect the Great Lakes as well as all the basins and watersheds that feed into it. There is a proposed draft strategy on how it will be implemented. There is also a Great Lakes guardian community fund for stewardship and projects that will be undertaken in the area to help achieve maximum protection of the Great Lakes watershed. **Karey Shinn** added that the bypasses of the sewage plant going into the Lake are some of the worst in Canada. She and Karen Buck would give a presentation to the NLC to summarize the information contained in this document, as well as the basement flooding initiative. It is important that the public is aware of these changes and how they can access the information.

**Karen Buck** said that she is very concerned about the separation of the flows and she would like to see the City work on increasing separation. The road storm sewers are actually flowing back into the combined sewars. Since the ABTP is going to be under more regulation to put out cleaner effluent to protect Lake Ontario, there should be a focus on separating the wet weather flow from the combined and given as much appropriate treatment before being released into the watershed.

**Karey Shinn** suggested the NLC have a meeting to discuss these issues and invite a representative from the City to help explain the details and the maps in the study. **Josie Franch** said that Toronto Water carried out full EAs and held series of meetings on both the Basement Flooding Study and the Don River and Central Waterfront Project where staff from various departments also attended, to discuss project related issues.. Those were excellent opportunities for the public to attend and gather more information. **Josie Franch** further explained that public notices were distributed to the public and newspaper ads placed advising of these meetings.



**Karen Buck** said that these meetings did not have presentations; they were open house format and she found that the information provided was insufficient.

**Karen Buck** said that she and Karey Shinn would be willing to summarize the information about the basement flooding and provide the NLC with a presentation. **Karey Shinn** requested half an hour at a future NLC meeting to provide a PowerPoint presentation addressing the impact that these changes will have on the community. She would also like to invite the public to this meeting.

## **7. Next meeting & Adjournment**

**Karey Shinn** suggested having a meeting with a public forum to discuss basement flooding, aging infrastructure, the EAs and Coatsworth Cut with staff from Toronto Water. The meeting was tentatively set for late January 2013. **Josie Franch** will discuss this suggestion with Toronto Water.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.