



Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Fri 3/28/2025 10:29 AM

To Irosales@aamjiwnaang.ca <Irosales@aamjiwnaang.ca>; cjackson@aamjiwnaang.ca <cjackson@aamjiwnaang.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning Lynn and Courtney,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a 'Water Control Structures Technologist' for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam. I am working on the consultation process for this project.


I am writing to you today to update you on the status for the study and to apologize for the delay in the communication with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in the ways that you wish, and in a timely manner. We endeavor to foster meaningful engagement and build partnerships with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation through an improved EA process. We believe that the traditional knowledge and insight of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation will be invaluable towards improving the water quality in our streams. With this in mind, I want to update you on Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, inform you of other similar upcoming projects in the near future, and open up discussion about ways to improve the consultation and engagement process.

Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (Embro EA)

Currently, Embro EA is being undertaken under the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment. Five possible alternative solutions were identified in the first draft of the study report, with the preferred alternative, as per the draft report, being to "remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/ wetlands". The removal of this barrier would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and increase the habitat connectivity between the upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an off-line pond, and planting of native trees, shrubs and seeds will help cool the water while enhancing habitats for waterfowls and aquatic life.

At this point the study report for Embro EA is in the draft stage. We would like to update you on the process thus far and invite you to provide your input on the alternative. The project progress to-date includes background information gathering, Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the project study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative. A project webpage has been created on

UTRCA's website; and contains all the background information and the latest updates, and is available at: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/class-embro-dam-class-ea/>



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Embro Dam Class EA - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Embro Dam Location: 843970 Road 84, Lot 15, Concession 4, Township of Zorra, Oxford County, in Embro Conservation Area (Lat. 43°10'09" N, Long. 80°54'55" W) Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (posted June 18, 2024) Embro Dam Notice of Completion of Project Plan Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

We are happy to receive your input. You are welcome to participate on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of interest holders, such as the Zorra heritage committee, environmental groups, associations, and Township of Zorra. Another option would be to meet with you directly, or if direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We welcome whatever level of involvement you may wish to have in this project.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and get your feedback and perspective before an EA is triggered.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project and/or would like to discuss an approach to engagement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Request for Engagement/ Consultation – Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Mon 6/16/2025 11:44 AM

To cjackson@aamjiwnaang.ca <cjackson@aamjiwnaang.ca>; Irosales@aamjiwnaang.ca <Irosales@aamjiwnaang.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a Water Control Structures Technologist at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. I am reaching out to follow up on a previous email regarding engagement and consultation related to the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment.

We believe that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Aamjiwnaang Nation will be invaluable in improving water quality in rivers throughout the watershed. We want to ensure that we are providing opportunities for your participation in this project.

We are currently seeking your comments and feedback on the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment. The first draft of the study report identifies five possible alternative solutions, with the preferred option being to “**remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands.**” This approach would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an offline pond, and the planting of native trees, shrubs, and seeds would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

To date, UTRCA has received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN). Caldwell First Nation has expressed support for the preferred alternative. COTTFN has indicated their interest in participating in further surveys and studies, as recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

At this stage, the study report for the Embro Dam EA remains in draft form. We would like to update you on the process so far and invite your input on the proposed alternatives. Project

progress to date includes background information gathering, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing all background information and the latest updates. You can access it here:

<https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

We would be pleased to receive your input. You are welcome to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of stakeholders such as the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, associations, and the Township of Zorra. Alternatively, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we welcome your comments via mail or email. We appreciate and respect whatever level of involvement your community may wish to have in this project.

If you would like, we would be delighted to schedule a site visit with you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, require additional information, or would like to discuss this further.



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca



RE: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Lynn Rosales <lrosales@aamjiwnaang.ca>

Date Thu 8/28/2025 9:21 AM

To Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>; Courtney Jackson <cjackson@aamjiwnaang.ca>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aanii/Hi Sarbjit,

Thanks so much for reaching out and providing a detailed update.

Courtney will reach out as soon as she determine consultation preferences for Aamjiwnaang.

Miigwech/Thank You

Lynn Rosales

Environment Coordinator

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 8:00 AM

To: Courtney Jackson <cjackson@aamjiwnaang.ca>; Lynn Rosales <lrosales@aamjiwnaang.ca>

Subject: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the Next Dimension Service Desk.

Friday, August 28, 2025

Dear Courtney & Lynn,

My Name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been working as 'Water Control Structures Technologist' at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for about four years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam.

I am writing to you to update you on the status of the study. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in a manner that is timely, and aligned with your preference. We are committed to fostering meaningful engagement and building partnerships with the Aamjiwnaang First Nation to achieve shared environmental goals. We recognize that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation are invaluable in improving the health of waters in this watershed.

We kindly request your comments or intent to comment by no later than September 30, 2025.

The draft report for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment identifies five possible alternatives. The preferred recommendation is to remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands. This approach aims to restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, offline ponds, and native vegetation (trees, shrubs, and seeds) would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

As part of the consultation process, UTRCA has reached out to various First Nations. We previously contacted Aamjiwnaang First Nation via email on March 28, 2025, and June 16, 2025, to invite engagement on this project. We have received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Caldwell First Nation expressed support for the preferred alternative, while Chippewas of the Thames First Nation indicated interest in participating in further studies recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing background information and the latest updates. You can access it here: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below:



We welcome your input and invite you to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes representatives from the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, local associations, and the Township of Zorra. If preferred, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are also happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We respect and support whatever level of involvement you wish to have in this project.

Please respond with your comments or intent to comment by September 30, 2025.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and receive your feedback before initiating the EA process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, or would like to discuss engagement options, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca



Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Date Thu 8/28/2025 8:00 AM
To alicia.black eagle@wifn.org <alicia.black eagle@wifn.org>

Friday, August 28, 2025

Dear Alicia,

My Name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been working as 'Water Control Structures Technologist' at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for about four years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam.

I am writing to you to update you on the status of the study. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in a manner that is timely, and aligned with your preference. We are committed to fostering meaningful engagement and building partnerships with the Walpole Island First Nation to achieve shared environmental goals. We recognize that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Walpole Island First Nation are invaluable in improving the health of waters in this watershed.

We kindly request your comments or intent to comment by no later than September 30, 2025.

The draft report for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment identifies five possible alternatives. The preferred recommendation is to remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands. This approach aims to restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, offline ponds, and native vegetation (trees, shrubs, and seeds) would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

As part of the consultation process, UTRCA has reached out to various First Nations. We previously contacted Walpole Island First Nation via email on March 28, 2025, and June 16, 2025, to invite engagement on this project. We have received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Caldwell First Nation expressed support for the preferred alternative, while Chippewas of the Thames First Nation indicated interest in

participating in further studies recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing background information and the latest updates. You can access it here: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below:



We welcome your input and invite you to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes representatives from the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, local associations, and the Township of Zorra. If preferred, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are also happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We respect and support whatever level of involvement you wish to have in this project.

Please respond with your comments or intent to comment by September 30, 2025.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and receive your feedback before initiating the EA process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, or would like to discuss engagement options, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca



Request for Engagement/ Consultation – Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Mon 6/16/2025 11:47 AM

To naomi.williams@wifn.org <naomi.williams@wifn.org>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a Water Control Structures Technologist at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. I am reaching out to follow up on a previous email regarding engagement and consultation related to the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment.

We believe that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Walpole Island First Nation will be invaluable in improving water quality in rivers throughout the watershed. We want to ensure that we are providing opportunities for your participation in this project.

We are currently seeking your comments and feedback on the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment. The first draft of the study report identifies five possible alternative solutions, with the preferred option being to **“remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands.”** This approach would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an offline pond, and the planting of native trees, shrubs, and seeds would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

To date, UTRCA has received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN). Caldwell First Nation has expressed support for the preferred alternative. COTTFN has indicated their interest in participating in further surveys and studies, as recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

At this stage, the study report for the Embro Dam EA remains in draft form. We would like to update you on the process so far and invite your input on the proposed alternatives. Project

progress to date includes background information gathering, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing all background information and the latest updates. You can access it here:

<https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

We would be pleased to receive your input. You are welcome to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of stakeholders such as the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, associations, and the Township of Zorra. Alternatively, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we welcome your comments via mail or email. We appreciate and respect whatever level of involvement your community may wish to have in this project.

If you would like, we would be delighted to schedule a site visit with you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, require additional information, or would like to discuss this further.



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

From Jenna Maidment <landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca>

Date Mon 5/26/2025 8:38 AM

To Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Zack Hamm <ecd.manager@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Melanie Thomas <landguardian2@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Steve Simpson Sr. <waterguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Tara Tchir <TchirT@thamesriver.ca>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

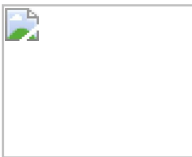
Yes, please keep us updated as more materials become available for review!

Miigwech,

Jenna Maidment (*she/her*)

Land Guardian - Environment and Consultation Coordinator

Environment and Consultation Department (ECD)



Caldwell First Nation

14 Orange Street

Leamington | ON | N8H 1P5

Phone: +1 226-936-1093

landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or their agent, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and then delete this message and any attachments. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying, or storage of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited.

On Mon, May 26, 2025 at 8:32 AM Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca> wrote:

Good morning Jenna,

We are very much looking forward to seeing you folks, whenever the new date is.

Also, we would keep you informed of the planting days. Once we are in the design/ construction phase, we would appreciate your input on the features at the site.

Thanks,
Sarbjit



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jenna Maidment <landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca>

Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 11:49 AM

To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Cc: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Zack Hamm <ecd.manager@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Melanie Thomas <landguardian2@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Steve Simpson Sr. <waterguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca>

Subject: Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Sarbjit,

It was unfortunate but we are looking forward to coming up once the SWA meeting is rescheduled!

Honestly, Steve and I have talked about it and with the information we have so far we are both very much in favour of this project and the preferred alternative. The only comment we have is once work starts on the project Steve or myself would be keen to participate in any planting that occurs - we are always open for days out on the land.

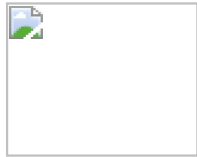
Hopefully we will be seeing you soon - have a great weekend!

Miigwech,

Jenna Maidment (*she/her*)

Land Guardian - Environment and Consultation Coordinator

Environment and Consultation Department (ECD)



Caldwell First Nation

14 Orange Street

Leamington | ON | N8H 1P5

Phone: +1 226-936-1093

landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or their agent, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and then delete this message and any attachments. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying, or storage of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited.

On Wed, May 21, 2025 at 9:59 AM Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca> wrote:

Good morning Jenna,

Hope that you are doing well 😊

Thank you for your response regarding the Embro project.

It was unfortunate that the meeting had to be postponed, and we didn't get the opportunity to connect in person last week.

While we wait for a new date for the meeting, please let me know if you have any questions regarding this project in the meantime.

Thanks,
Sarbjit

UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jenna Maidment <landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca>

Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 9:19 AM

To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Cc: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Zack Hamm <ecd.manager@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Melanie Thomas <landguardian2@caldwellfirstnation.ca>; Steve Simpson Sr. <waterguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca>

Subject: RE: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

You don't often get email from landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Sarbjit,

I have been working through some of my backdated emails and came across this forwarded update about the Embro Dam. After the meeting Steve and I attended last with you and the other folks at UTRCA, I think most of the questions in terms of best engagement practices have been answered. :)

From a brief review of the Embro EA, we are in favour of the preferred alternative where the dam will be removed and replaced with natural ponds and wetlands. Perhaps next week when Steve and I are up your way we can chat about this project then as well.

Steve would be the man for the Community Liaison Committee, but I will let him confirm if he has enough capacity to participate in that. How often does the CLC meet?

Looking forward to next week!

Miigwech,

Jenna Maidment (*she/her*)

Land Guardian - Environment and Consultation Coordinator

Environment and Consultation Department (ECD)



Caldwell First Nation

14 Orange Street

Leamington | ON | N8H 1P5

Phone: +1 226-936-1093

landguardian@caldwellfirstnation.ca

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or their agent, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and then delete this message and any attachments. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying, or storage of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarbjit Singh** <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date: Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 10:26 AM

Subject: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

To: ecd.manager@caldwellfirstnation.ca <ecd.manager@caldwellfirstnation.ca>, ecd.assistant@caldwellfirstnation.ca <ecd.assistant@caldwellfirstnation.ca>

Cc: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>, David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>, Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning Zack,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a 'Water Control Structures Technologist' for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam. I am working on the consultation process for this project.

I am writing to you today to update you on the status for the study and to apologize for the delay in the communication with the Caldwell First Nation. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in the ways that you wish, and in a timely manner. We endeavor to foster meaningful engagement and build partnerships with the Caldwell First Nation through an improved EA process. We believe that the traditional knowledge and insight of the Caldwell First Nation will be invaluable towards improving the water quality in our streams. With this in mind, I want to update you on Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, inform you of other similar upcoming projects in the near future, and open up discussion about ways to improve the consultation and engagement process.

Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (Embro EA)

Currently, Embro EA is being undertaken under the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment. Five possible alternative solutions were identified in the first draft of the study report, with the preferred alternative, as per the draft report, being to “remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/ wetlands”. The removal of this barrier would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and increase the habitat connectivity between the upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an off-line pond, and planting of native trees, shrubs and seeds will help cool the water while enhancing habitats for waterfowls and aquatic life.

At this point the study report for Embro EA is in the draft stage. We would like to update you on the process thus far and invite you to provide your input on the alternative. The project progress to-date includes background information gathering, Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the project study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative. A project webpage has been created on UTRCA’s website; and contains all the background information and the latest updates, and is available at: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>



Embro Dam Class EA - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Embro Dam Location: 843970 Road 84, Lot 15, Concession 4, Township of Zorra, Oxford County, in Embro Conservation Area (Lat. 43°10'09" N, Long. 80°54'55" W) Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (posted June 18, 2024) Embro Dam Notice of Completion of Project Plan Embro Dam Class thamesriver.on.ca Assessment (EA)

We are happy to receive your input. You are welcome to participate on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of interest holders, such as the Zorra heritage committee, environmental groups, associations, and Township of Zorra. Another option would be to meet with you directly, or if direct engagement is not possible at this

time, we are happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We welcome whatever level of involvement you may wish to have in this project.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and get your feedback and perspective before an EA is triggered.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project and/or would like to discuss an approach to engagement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

All UTRCA email addresses are changing from @thamesriver.on.ca to @thamesriver.ca. Please update your address book and any distribution lists to ensure emails from our new addresses reach you. We will continue to receive emails sent to our old email addresses.



Deshkan Ziibiing
Chippewas of the Thames
First Nation Treaties, Lands
and Environment

320 Chippewa Road
Muncey, ON, N0L 1Y0
Tel: 519-289-5555
Fax: 519-289-2230
info@cottfn.com

3-Jun-2025 08:30 EDT

Dear Sarbjit Singh,

COTTFN has received information concerning Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, dated 15-Apr-2025. The proposed project is located within the Huron Tract Treaty, and within the Big Bear Creek Additions to Reserve (ATR) land selection area, as well as COTTFN Traditional Territory.

Deshkan Ziibi (the Thames River) and its associated tributaries are and have been a source of sustenance for COTTFN, offering not only essential drinking water but also standing as a vital resource for fishing—an integral practice of Anishinaabe culture. Its riverbanks continue to bear witness to sacred ceremonies, and the flowing waters are intimately intertwined with the spiritual beliefs of the Anishinaabe People. Water is a sacred living entity with its own spirit, and we, as humans, have a responsibility to protect and care for it. Beyond their practical and spiritual dimensions, Deshkan Ziibi has also acted as conduits for cultural exchange and trade, playing a pivotal role in the historical interconnectedness of Indigenous communities. While this project appears to have an overall benefit to the water, any project that has the potential to impact Deshkan Ziibi is identified by COTTFN as a moderate concern. Without prejudice to COTTFN's protected rights and interests, the Consultation Unit provides the following comments:

- COTTFN supports further surveys be completed during detailed design, especially for mussels and amphibians because they were not completed prior. Relocation efforts should occur prior to/during drawdown if required.
- Please update SAR bats to include recently listed Hoary bat, Eastern red bat, and Silver-haired bat and incorporate more mitigation/compensation measures for SAR bats if these species are also impacted at the project site
- COTTFN supports further surface water sampling and sediment sampling on site prior to drawdown/dredging/construction given cyanide levels were elevated in sediment.
- COTTFN's Indigenous Guardians program has already trained several youth in some types of environmental surveys. This presents an excellent opportunity to further build on the relationship COTTFN has with UTRCA and improve the Guardians' capacity and knowledge by involving them in additional assessments and fieldwork.

- If there is a Stage 2 Archaeology Assessment conducted, COTTFN requires notification and the opportunity to actively participate by sending First Nation Field Liaisons on behalf of this First Nation.
- COTTFN would like to be a part of the detailed design stage of the project and kept informed about project updates.

We look forward to continuing this open line of communication. To implement meaningful consultation, COTTFN has developed its own protocols - a document and a process that will guide positive working relationships (attached). Please review at your earliest convenience. We look forward to the meeting later in June where we will go over COTTFN's Consultation Protocol and answer any questions you have. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification of this letter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Erna Leclair

Consultation Analyst

Chippewa of the Thames First Nation

320 Chippewa Road, Muncey, ON, N0L 1Y0

(519) 289-5555 Ext 239

emleclair@cottfn.com

[wiindmaagewin-consultation-protocol-120623-approved.pdf](#)

Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

From Erna-Marie Leclair <emleclair@cottfn.com>

Date Fri 5/23/2025 10:35 AM

To Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Sarbjit!

Absolutely will provide comments. I hope to have them to you by end of next week! We have been quite busy with bill 5 the last couple weeks.

Hope that is okay!

Erna

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 12:00:38 PM

To: Erna-Marie Leclair <emleclair@cottfn.com>

Subject: Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

Good afternoon Erna,

Nice to hear from you. My week's going well. Hope yours is going well too.

We can definitely provide you with any updates regarding the Embro Dam along with West London Dyke project.

In the meantime, would you be able to provide your input regarding the current preferred alternative. The study identified five possible alternative solutions. The preferred alternative, as per the current draft report, is to "Remove the dam and construct offline pond(s) or wetland(s)".

It would be great if you can provide your recommendation/ position on the draft report, that we can include in the report. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

Thank you,
Sarbjit

UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Erna-Marie Leclair <emleclair@cottfn.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:05 PM

To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>

Cc: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Jennifer Mills <jmills@cottfn.com>; Fallon Burch <fburch@cottfn.com>

Subject: Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Sarbjit,

Hope your week is going well. I will hopefully be going to the rescheduled SWA meeting but only if its during the first week of June. The second week we have Archaeology training for our monitors. Hopefully we can meet there!

Apologies, I didn't send this email to you directly, but noticed you were Cc'd on a previous email chain regarding the meeting scheduled with Upper Thames on June 19 2025 (with David Proracki) from 930-noon. I assumed...Sorry about that!

The plan for Upper Thames to provide COTTFN with updates regarding both the Embro Dam and West London Dyke Projects and for COTTFN to provide insight into COTTFNs Consultation process. Three birds with one stone.

Does this date work for your team? If we need to push the time a bit to past noon to accommodate your presentation and discussion, please let me know.



Erna-Marie Leclair (she/her)
Consultation Analyst
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Email: emleclair@cottfn.com
Phone: 519-289-5555 ext 239
Cell: 226-236-0816
320 Chippewa Road, Muncey, Ontario



[Visit us online at cottfn.com](http://www.cottfn.com)

This communication is intended for the use of the recipient to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication any information received should be deleted or

destroyed.

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Erna-Marie Leclair <emleclair@cottfn.com>
Cc: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Jennifer Mills <jmills@cottfn.com>; Fallon Burch <fburch@cottfn.com>
Subject: Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

Some people who received this message don't often get email from singhs@thamesriver.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning Erna,

Hope that you are doing well. It was unfortunate that the Shared Waters meetings had to be postponed last week, and we didn't get the opportunity to connect in-person.

While we are waiting for the new date for the meeting, I was wondering if we could schedule a meeting regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment. I am not sure if have had the chance to review the information regarding this project yet - it's currently uploaded on Nations Connect.

Please let me know if your thoughts. Thank you.

Sarbjit



Sarbjit Singh
Water Control Structures Technologist
1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9
Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245
Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca
Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Erna-Marie Leclair <emleclair@cottfn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Cc: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Jennifer Mills <jmills@cottfn.com>; Fallon Burch <fburch@cottfn.com>
Subject: Re: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Sarbjit,

Thank you for sharing this information about the Embro Dam EA. COTTFN values early and meaningful consultation, especially on projects that impact Deshkan Ziibi. Our Consultation Unit welcomes the opportunity to meet and begin building a strong working relationship.

To streamline project submissions, COTTFN has transitioned to **NationsConnect**, a project management tool that helps us efficiently track and review incoming projects. We kindly ask that all relevant documents (not just links to the documents as these expire) be uploaded to this portal. **NationsConnect is free to use**, and if you have any questions you can reach out to support@kwusen.ca

To register for NationsConnect, and submit your request, please visit NationsConnect.ca.

Please note, along with the project information, a spatial file in .kml, .kmz, or .zip shapefile formats will be required to submit your request. Once your project has been submitted, you can attach additional files or send updated communication through the Conversations feature on NationsConnect.

Please let us know your availability to connect via the NationsConnect communications feature—we look forward to working together.



Erna-Marie Leclair (she/her)
Consultation Analyst
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Email: emleclair@cottfn.com
Cell: 226-236-0816
320 Chippewa Road, Muncey, Ontario

 [facebook icon](#)

 [twitter icon](#)

 [linkedin icon](#)

 [instagram icon](#)

[Visit us online at cottfn.com](https://www.cottfn.com)

This communication is intended for the use of the recipient to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication any information received should be deleted or destroyed.

From: Sarbjit Singh

Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 11:49 AM

To: Kelly Riley; Erna-Marie Leclair

Cc: Huda Ghadban; David Proracki; Jillian Smith

Subject: Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

Embroid Dam Class EA - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority



Embroid Dam Class Environmental Assessment Embroid Dam Location: 843970 Road 84, Lot 15, Concession 4, Township of Zorra, Oxford County, in Embroid Conservation Area (Lat. 43°10'09" N, Long. 80°54'55" W) Embroid Dam Class Environmental Assessment (posted June 18, 2024) Embroid Dam Notice of Completion of Project Plan Embroid Dam Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

We are happy to receive your input. You are welcome to participate on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of interest holders, such as the Zorra heritage committee, environmental groups, associations, and Township of Zorra. Another option would be to meet with you directly, or if direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We welcome whatever level of involvement you may wish to have in this project.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embroid, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and get your feedback and perspective before an EA is triggered.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project and/or would like to discuss an approach to engagement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Sarbjit

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: https://url.avanan.click/v2/r03/_www.thamesriver.on.ca_.YXYyYzpjAGlwcGV3YXNvZnRoZXRoYW1lc2ZpcnN0bmF0aW9uOmE6bzowYjNIMTYwZmMwMGRiMwQyMDc0NGFjYjM2M2ExZDE4OT03OjM3Nzk6YTI0YTM3ZDY3ZGI3MDE2YWQwYTU3ZTBiNmEzMTZkNjE3Y2Q5NTA2YzM2YzgxNGlwNzc4YWZmNjUwNWJjMTg4NTp0OIQ6Tg

All UTRCA email addresses are changing from @thamesriver.on.ca to @thamesriver.ca. Please update your address book and any distribution lists to ensure emails from our new addresses reach you. We will continue to receive emails sent to our old email addresses.

Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Thu 8/28/2025 8:00 AM

To ecdevinfo@delawarenation.on.ca <ecdevinfo@delawarenation.on.ca>

Friday, August 28, 2025

Dear Michelle,

My Name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been working as 'Water Control Structures Technologist' at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for about four years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam.

I am writing to you to update you on the status of the study. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in a manner that is timely, and aligned with your preference. We are committed to fostering meaningful engagement and building partnerships with the Delaware Nation of Moraviantown to achieve shared environmental goals. We recognize that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Delaware Nation of Moraviantown are invaluable in improving the health of waters in this watershed.

We kindly request your comments or intent to comment by no later than September 30, 2025.

The draft report for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment identifies five possible alternatives. The preferred recommendation is to remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands. This approach aims to restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, offline ponds, and native vegetation (trees, shrubs, and seeds) would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

As part of the consultation process, UTRCA has reached out to various First Nations. We previously contacted Delaware Nation of Moraviantown via email on March 28, 2025, and June 16, 2025, to invite engagement on this project. We have received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Caldwell First Nation expressed support for the preferred alternative, while Chippewas of the Thames First Nation indicated

interest in participating in further studies recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing background information and the latest updates. You can access it here: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below:



We welcome your input and invite you to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes representatives from the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, local associations, and the Township of Zorra. If preferred, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are also happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We respect and support whatever level of involvement you wish to have in this project.

Please respond with your comments or intent to comment by September 30, 2025.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and receive your feedback before initiating the EA process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, or would like to discuss engagement options, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,



UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Request for Engagement/ Consultation – Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Mon 6/16/2025 11:43 AM

To ecdevinfo@delawarenation.on.ca <ecdevinfo@delawarenation.on.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning Michelle,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a Water Control Structures Technologist at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. I am reaching out to follow up on a previous email regarding engagement and consultation related to the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment.

We believe that the traditional knowledge and insights of Delaware Nation of Moravian of the Thames will be invaluable in improving water quality in rivers throughout the watershed. We want to ensure that we are providing opportunities for your participation in this project.

We are currently seeking your comments and feedback on the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment. The first draft of the study report identifies five possible alternative solutions, with the preferred option being to “**remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands.**” This approach would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an offline pond, and the planting of native trees, shrubs, and seeds would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

To date, UTRCA has received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN). Caldwell First Nation has expressed support for the preferred alternative. COTTFN has indicated their interest in participating in further surveys and studies, as recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

At this stage, the study report for the Embro Dam EA remains in draft form. We would like to update you on the process so far and invite your input on the proposed alternatives. Project

progress to date includes background information gathering, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing all background information and the latest updates. You can access it here:

<https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

We would be pleased to receive your input. You are welcome to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of stakeholders such as the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, associations, and the Township of Zorra. Alternatively, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we welcome your comments via mail or email. We appreciate and respect whatever level of involvement your community may wish to have in this project.

If you would like, we would be delighted to schedule a site visit with you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, require additional information, or would like to discuss this further.



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Fri 3/28/2025 10:41 AM

To ecdevinfo@delawarenation.on.ca <ecdevinfo@delawarenation.on.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning Michelle,

I was very nice to talk to you earlier this week, on Monday. I hope that you are doing well. As per our conversation, I am writing to provide you with information regarding the Embro Dam and other upcoming projects.

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a 'Water Control Structures Technologist' for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam. I am working on the consultation process for this project.


I am writing to you today to update you on the status for the study and to apologize for the delay in the communication with the Delaware Nation. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in the ways that you wish, and in a timely manner. We endeavor to foster meaningful engagement and build partnerships with the Delaware Nation through an improved EA process. We believe that the traditional knowledge and insight of the Delaware Nation will be invaluable towards improving the water quality in our streams. With this in mind, I want to update you on Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, inform you of other similar upcoming projects in the near future, and open up discussion about ways to improve the consultation and engagement process.

Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (Embro EA)

Currently, Embro EA is being undertaken under the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment. Five possible alternative solutions were identified in the first draft of the study report, with the preferred alternative, as per the draft report, being to "remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/ wetlands". The removal of this barrier would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and increase the habitat connectivity between the upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an off-line pond, and planting of native trees, shrubs and seeds will help cool the water while enhancing habitats for waterfowls and aquatic life.

At this point the study report for Embro EA is in the draft stage. We would like to update you on the process thus far and invite you to provide your input on the alternative. The project progress to-date includes background information gathering, Cultural Heritage Evaluation,

characterization of the project study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative. A project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website; and contains all the background information and the latest updates, and is available at: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/class-embro-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

 <p>UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY</p>	<h2>Embro Dam Class EA - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority</h2>
	<p>Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Embro Dam Location: 843970 Road 84, Lot 15, Concession 4, Township of Zorra, Oxford County, in Embro Conservation Area (Lat. 43°10'09" N, Long. 80°54'55" W) Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (posted June 18, 2024) Embro Dam Notice of Completion of Project Plan Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (EA)</p>

We are happy to receive your input. You are welcome to participate on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of interest holders, such as the Zorra heritage committee, environmental groups, associations, and Township of Zorra. Another option would be to meet with you directly, or if direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We welcome whatever level of involvement you may wish to have in this project.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and get your feedback and perspective before an EA is triggered.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project and/or would like to discuss an approach to engagement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sarbjit



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

All UTRCA email addresses are changing from **@thamesriver.on.ca** to **@thamesriver.ca**. Please update your address book and any distribution lists to ensure emails from our new addresses reach you. We will continue to receive emails sent to our old email addresses.

Re: Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Follow Up Meeting

Organizer Jana George <Jana.George@threefires.com>
Meeting time This event occurred 5 months ago (Tue 5/20/2025 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)
Location Microsoft Teams Meeting
My response Accepted
Required attendees Jana George, Huda Ghadhban, Jessica Wakefield, David Proracki, Sarbjit Singh, Jillian Smith
Message sent Tue 6/17/2025 11:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Sarbjit,

Thank you; we are busy but enjoying the warm weather! I hope you are doing well too. Thank you for following up. We had an opportunity to review the report and did not note any major concerns or questions. We would like to stay updated and look forward to learning more about the mitigation measures that will be implemented for the various species listed within the report.

Thank you,



Jana George
Consultation & Monitoring Coordinator

Email: jana.george@threefires.com

A-9119 W Ipperwash Rd
Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
Ontario N0N 1J1
www.threefires.com

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Sent: June 16, 2025 9:02 AM

To: Jana George <Jana.George@threefires.com>; Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; Jessica Wakefield <Jessica.Wakefield@threefires.com>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Subject: Re: Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Follow Up Meeting

Good morning Jana!

I hope that you and the folks at Kettle Point are doing well.

I am writing to follow up on the prior emails regarding this project. Would you be able to provide your comments on the current draft report?

Please let me know if you need any further information. Thanks!



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jana George <Jana.George@threefires.com>

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 4:12 PM

To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>; Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; Jessica Wakefield <Jessica.Wakefield@threefires.com>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Subject: Re: Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Follow Up Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sarbjit,

Thank you for reaching out. I think our hope for this meeting is to conduct introductions among our teams and learn more about the project process, including work completed to date, next steps, and any key information you would like to share. We would also like to learn more about the committee participation and other ways for us to stay updated on different projects.

Thank you,



Jana George

Consultation & Monitoring Coordinator

Email: jana.george@threefires.com

A-9119 W Ipperwash Rd

Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

Ontario N0N 1J1

www.threefires.com

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Sent: May 16, 2025 3:33 PM

To: Jana George <Jana.George@threefires.com>; Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; Jessica

Wakefield <Jessica.Wakefield@threefires.com>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Subject: Re: Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Follow Up Meeting

Good afternoon Jana,

Hope that you are doing well and enjoying the sunshine. Myself and other staff from UTRCA are very much looking forward to the meeting on Tuesday.

Please let me know if you would like to prepare and send a draft agenda ahead of the meeting.

Thank you,
Sarbjit



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jana George <Jana.George@threefires.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 1:53 PM

To: Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; Jessica Wakefield <Jessica.Wakefield@threefires.com>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>

Subject: Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment Follow Up Meeting

When: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 1:00 PM-2:00 PM.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 270 391 015 695 1

Passcode: 4pc6cY38

Dial in by phone

[+1 647-738-4466](tel:+16477384466),[618245955#](tel:+16477384466618245955#) Canada, Toronto

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 618 245 955#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Thu 8/28/2025 8:00 AM

To rick@munsee.ca <rick@munsee.ca>; chief@munsee.ca <chief@munsee.ca>

Friday, August 28, 2025

Dear Rick & Roger,

My Name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been working as 'Water Control Structures Technologist' at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for about four years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam.

I am writing to you to update you on the status of the study. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in a manner that is timely, and aligned with your preference. We are committed to fostering meaningful engagement and building partnerships with the Munsee-Delaware Nation to achieve shared environmental goals. We recognize that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Munsee-Delaware Nation are invaluable in improving the health of waters in this watershed.

We kindly request your comments or intent to comment by no later than September 30, 2025.

The draft report for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment identifies five possible alternatives. The preferred recommendation is to remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands. This approach aims to restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, offline ponds, and native vegetation (trees, shrubs, and seeds) would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

As part of the consultation process, UTRCA has reached out to various First Nations. We previously contacted Munsee-Delaware Nation via email on March 28, 2025, and June 16, 2025, to invite engagement on this project. We have received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Caldwell First Nation expressed support for the preferred alternative, while Chippewas of the Thames First Nation indicated interest in

participating in further studies recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing background information and the latest updates. You can access it here: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below:



We welcome your input and invite you to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes representatives from the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, local associations, and the Township of Zorra. If preferred, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are also happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We respect and support whatever level of involvement you wish to have in this project.

Please respond with your comments or intent to comment by September 30, 2025.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and receive your feedback before initiating the EA process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, or would like to discuss engagement options, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,



UPPER THAMES RIVER

CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Request for Engagement/ Consultation – Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Mon 6/16/2025 11:39 AM

To chief@munsee.ca <chief@munsee.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhbhan <GhadhbhanH@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>; Tara Tchir <TchirT@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a Water Control Structures Technologist at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. I am reaching out to follow up on a previous email regarding engagement and consultation related to the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment.

We believe that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Munsee Delaware Nation will be invaluable in improving water quality in rivers throughout the watershed. We want to ensure that we are providing opportunities for your participation in this project.

We are currently seeking your comments and feedback on the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment. The first draft of the study report identifies five possible alternative solutions, with the preferred option being to “**remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands.**” This approach would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an offline pond, and the planting of native trees, shrubs, and seeds would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

To date, UTRCA has received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN). Caldwell First Nation has expressed support for the preferred alternative. COTTFN has indicated their interest in participating in further surveys and studies, as recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

At this stage, the study report for the Embro Dam EA remains in draft form. We would like to update you on the process so far and invite your input on the proposed alternatives. Project

progress to date includes background information gathering, a Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing all background information and the latest updates. You can access it here:

<https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

We would be pleased to receive your input. You are welcome to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of stakeholders such as the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, associations, and the Township of Zorra. Alternatively, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we welcome your comments via mail or email. We appreciate and respect whatever level of involvement your community may wish to have in this project.

If you would like, we would be delighted to schedule a site visit with you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, require additional information, or would like to discuss this further.



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Engagement and consultation regarding Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, and upcoming projects

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>

Date Fri 3/28/2025 11:26 AM

To chief@munsee.ca <chief@munsee.ca>; rick@munsee.ca <rick@munsee.ca>

Cc Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>

Good morning,

My name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been a 'Water Control Structures Technologist' for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for the past three years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam. I am working on the consultation process for this project.

I am writing to you today to update you on the status for the study and to apologize for the delay in the communication with the Munsee-Delaware Nation. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in the ways that you wish, and in a timely manner. We endeavor to foster meaningful engagement and build partnerships with the Munsee-Delaware Nation through an improved EA process. We believe that the traditional knowledge and insight of the Munsee-Delaware Nation will be invaluable towards improving the water quality in our streams. With this in mind, I want to update you on Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment, inform you of other similar upcoming projects in the near future, and open up discussion about ways to improve the consultation and engagement process.

Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment (Embro EA)

Currently, Embro EA is being undertaken under the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment. Five possible alternative solutions were identified in the first draft of the study report, with the preferred alternative, as per the draft report, being to "remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/ wetlands". The removal of this barrier would help restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and increase the habitat connectivity between the upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, an off-line pond, and planting of native trees, shrubs and seeds will help cool the water while enhancing habitats for waterfowls and aquatic life.

At this point the study report for Embro EA is in the draft stage. We would like to update you on the process thus far and invite you to provide your input on the alternative. The project progress to-date includes background information gathering, Cultural Heritage Evaluation, characterization of the project study area, identification of alternative solutions, public engagement, and selection of the preferred alternative. A project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website; and contains all the background information and the latest updates, and is

available at: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/class-ea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

Embryo Dam Class EA - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Embryo Dam Class Environmental Assessment Embryo Dam Location: 843970 Road 84, Lot 15, Concession 4, Township of Zorra, Oxford County, in Embryo Conservation Area (Lat. 43°10'09" N, Long. 80°54'55" W) Embryo Dam Class Environmental Assessment (posted June 18, 2024) Embryo Dam Notice of Completion of Project Plan Embryo Dam Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

We are happy to receive your input. You are welcome to participate on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes a range of interest holders, such as the Zorra heritage committee, environmental groups, associations, and Township of Zorra. Another option would be to meet with you directly, or if direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We welcome whatever level of involvement you may wish to have in this project.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embryo, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and get your feedback and perspective before an EA is triggered.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project and/or would like to discuss an approach to engagement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

All UTRCA email addresses are changing from @thamesriver.on.ca to @thamesriver.ca. Please update your address book and any distribution lists to ensure emails from our new addresses reach you. We will continue to receive emails sent to our old email addresses.

Re: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Date Fri 9/12/2025 10:30 AM
To Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>

Sure Jenelle that works. See you at 2:45 pm!

Sarbjit



Sarbjit Singh
Water Control Structures Technologist
1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9
Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245
Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca
Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 10:29 AM
To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Subject: RE: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I meant to email you yesterday and got sidetracked.

Is it ok if I meet with you around 245-3pm today?

Sorry super busy week with our fishing derby this Sunday.

Yaw^ko/Thank you



Jenelle Cornelius
Environmental Consultation Coordinator
Oneida Nation of the Thames
Political Office- 2210 Elm Ave. Southwold, Ontario N0L-
2G0
environment@oneida.on.ca
T: 519-652-6161 x813 | Cell: 226-234-0577

***Disclaimer:** The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.*

“Look Deep Into Nature ,And Then You Will Understand Everything Better”
Albert Einstein

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Sent: September 11, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>
Subject: Re: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Oneida Nation Of The Thames Organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Jenelle,

Hope that you are doing well. Just following up regarding tomorrow meeting.

The address is [843968 Rd 84, Embro, ON N0J 1J0](#)

Please feel free to contact me if you require any assistance. Thank you.

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh
Water Control Structures Technologist
1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9
Tel: [519-451-2800](tel:519-451-2800) Ext. 245
Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca
Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 1:31 PM
To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Subject: Re: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Can we plan for Sept 12 at 230pm?

Thank you,

Jenelle Cornelius
Environmental Consultation Coordinator
Oneida Nation of the Thames

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 10:28:58 AM
To: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>
Subject: Re: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Oneida Nation Of The Thames Organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jenelle,

It's very nice to hear from you. I hope that you are doing well.

We will be happy to schedule a site visit. My calendar next week feels slightly full. Would the week of September 8 to September work for you? I think any day in that week will work for me. Please let me know if that suits your schedule.

Thank you,



UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Sarbjit Singh
Water Control Structures Technologist
1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9
Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245
Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca
Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

From: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 10:20 AM
To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Subject: Re: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Sarbjit,

I have been meaning to get to this and have not as of yet due to capacity issues.

Would it be possible to schedule a site visit in the coming weeks? I was unable to attend during the tour last time.

Thank you,

Jenelle Cornelius
Environmental Consultation Coordinator
Oneida Nation of the Thames

From: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 8:00:00 AM
To: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>
Subject: Consultation for Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Oneida Nation Of The Thames Organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Friday, August 28, 2025

Dear Jenelle,

My Name is Sarbjit Singh, and I have been working as 'Water Control Structures Technologist' at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for about four years. Currently, I am overseeing the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam.

I am writing to you to update you on the status of the study. I would also like to work towards ensuring that the UTRCA is engaging with you in a manner that is timely, and aligned with your preference. We are committed to fostering meaningful engagement and building partnerships with the Oneida Nation of the Thames to achieve shared environmental goals. We recognize that the traditional knowledge and insights of the Oneida Nation of the Thames are invaluable in improving the health of waters in this watershed.

We kindly request your comments or intent to comment by no later than September 30, 2025.

The draft report for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment identifies five possible alternatives. The preferred recommendation is to remove the dam and construct one or more offline ponds/wetlands. This approach aims to restore natural stream processes, improve water quality, and enhance habitat connectivity between upstream and downstream reaches. The addition of wetlands, offline ponds, and native vegetation (trees, shrubs, and seeds) would help cool the water and support habitats for waterfowl and aquatic life.

As part of the consultation process, UTRCA has reached out to various First Nations. We previously contacted Oneida Nation of the Thames via email on March 28, 2025, and June 16, 2025, to invite engagement on this project. We have received comments from the Caldwell First Nation and the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Caldwell First Nation expressed support for the preferred alternative, while Chippewas of the Thames First Nation indicated interest in participating in further studies recommended in the draft report, including environmental surveys, the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment, and detailed design. Staff and Land Guardians from both First Nations visited the site during the May 2025 Shared Waters Approach meeting.

A dedicated project webpage has been created on UTRCA's website, containing background information and the latest updates. You can access it here: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/>

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below:



We welcome your input and invite you to participate in the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes representatives from the Zorra Heritage Committee, environmental groups, local associations, and the Township of Zorra. If preferred, we would be happy to meet with you directly. If direct engagement is not possible at this time, we are also happy to receive your comments via mail or email. We respect and support whatever level of involvement you wish to have in this project.

Please respond with your comments or intent to comment by September 30, 2025.

Upcoming Projects

In addition to Embro, we have a number of upcoming barrier-removal projects that may include an Environmental Assessment process such as the Stratford Channel, Dorchester Conservation Area Dam, and Centreville Dam. We would welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these projects and receive your feedback before initiating the EA process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, or would like to discuss engagement options, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,



Sarbjit Singh

Water Control Structures Technologist

1424 Clarke Rd, London, ON N5V 5B9

Tel: 519-451-2800 Ext. 245

Email: singhs@thamesriver.ca

Web: www.thamesriver.on.ca

Re: Reconnecting and Providing Updates on the West London Dyke Project

From Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>

Date Thu 4/10/2025 10:04 AM

To David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>

Cc Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the UTRCA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon David,

I appreciate you keeping Oneida in mind with this next stage of this project.

If you can please send the background and new information relevant to the project so that I may review.

As for future engagements, Oneida is in the process of redesigning our consultation procedures. We will soon be using the Nations Connect portal that some of the surrounding First Nations are utilizing. For now, we can continue to be engaged via email, mail or phone.

An opportunity to meet in person would also be great.

Thank you,

Jenelle Cornelius
Environmental Consultation Coordinator
Oneida Nation of the Thames

From: David Proracki <prorackid@thamesriver.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:08:26 AM

To: Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>; Jenelle Cornelius <environment@oneida.on.ca>

Cc: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.ca>; Jillian Smith <smithj@thamesriver.ca>; Huda Ghadhban <GhadhbanH@thamesriver.ca>

Subject: Reconnecting and Providing Updates on the West London Dyke Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Oneida Nation Of The Thames Organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jenelle and Brandon,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is David Proracki, and I am writing today to update you on the West London Dyke reconstruction project and to initiate discussion about how we can improve the consultation and engagement process for other upcoming projects. We recognize that our last direct engagement for this project was back in 2019, and we would like to take this opportunity to re-establish a more personal connection with your community. We believe that the traditional knowledge and insight of the Oneida Nation of the Thames is invaluable towards improving the water quality in our streams. We want to ensure that the UTRCA is engaging with you in the ways that you wish, and in a timely manner, through an improved process. We would love to hear your thoughts on how we can move forward in a way that best supports meaningful collaboration.

West London Dyke Reconstruction

Since 2007, the City of London, in partnership with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, has been undertaking a phased reconstruction of the dyke to address aging infrastructure and maintain effective flood protection. Earlier phases of the project focused on replacing deteriorating concrete with a more durable block wall. These upgrades, completed from Queens Avenue to the CP railway bridge, have enhanced both flood protection and the City of London's recreational pathway system.

The next phase of work is scheduled to begin in Fall 2025, with completion anticipated by late 2026. This phase will extend from the Forks of the Thames to Cavendish Park. The planned improvements include reinforcing the earthen dykes and upgrading sections of concrete near the Wharncliffe Bridge to ensure continued flood protection for the surrounding community.

Our project consultant, Stantec, has sent notices with more detailed project specifics. Please feel free to review these materials and let us know if you have any questions or would like further clarification.

Consultation and Engagement on Upcoming Projects

We have a number of upcoming barrier-removal and / or improvement projects that may include an EA process. Our goal is to create a more open and streamlined process for engagement and consultation around these future projects. We welcome the opportunity to outline the scope of these future projects before an EA is triggered and receive your feedback and perspective on what you like or don't like about the engagement process so far and how we can improve our approach moving forward.

We want to emphasize that we are open to re-engaging in whatever way works best for your community to ensure we have meaningful dialogue —whether that means setting up a meeting, providing additional information, or simply keeping you informed as the various projects progress.

If you have any questions about the West London dykes and / or would like to discuss an approach to engagement about future projects, please don't hesitate to reach out and contact me. We would appreciate the opportunity to listen, learn, and build a stronger relationship moving forward.

Looking forward to your thoughts and hoping to reconnect soon.

Best regards,
David



David Proracki, EIT

Project Specialist

1424 Clarke Road, London, Ontario, N5V 5B9

Phone: 519.451.2800 Ext. 330 | Fax: 519.451.1188

prorackid@thamesriver.on.ca | www.thamesriver.on.ca