

# Embro Dam EA Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting November 22, 2023 – Virtual Notes

## In Attendance

[REDACTED], Zorra Heritage Committee; [REDACTED], Ducks Unlimited; Mariette Pushkar, Matrix Solutions Inc.; Jeff Prince, Matrix Solutions Inc.; Scott Robertson, Matrix Solutions Inc.; Sarbjit Singh, Project Manager, UTRCA; Dan Hyland, UTRCA; Chris Tasker, UTRCA; Vanni Azzano, UTRCA

## Introductions

Sarbjit welcomed everyone to the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

Meeting has been recorded and available at this link:

[https://upperthamesriver-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/singhs\\_thamesriver\\_ca/EWZFOg37GNxCs3BVAlA84wB38Xq4XEOL1SXvqv5Gxs6lg?e=Chcedf&nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAIiOiJTaHJlYW1XZWJBcHAIiLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJTaGFyZURpYWxvZy1MaW5rliwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldiYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXcifX0%3D](https://upperthamesriver-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/singhs_thamesriver_ca/EWZFOg37GNxCs3BVAlA84wB38Xq4XEOL1SXvqv5Gxs6lg?e=Chcedf&nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAIiOiJTaHJlYW1XZWJBcHAIiLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJTaGFyZURpYWxvZy1MaW5rliwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldiYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXcifX0%3D)

## Presentation by Matrix Solutions Inc. (attached)

Mariette Pushkar, Scott Robertson and Jeff Prince outlined details of the Environmental Assessment Study, the “Draft” Project Implementation Plan and Next Steps.

Scott presented an overview of key findings, the 5 alternatives, alternative evaluation criteria and the preferred alternative of removing the dam and constructing an offline pond/wetland. Examples of the preferred alternative being implemented at other locations included Hodges Pond/Cedar Creek Restoration and Marden Creek/Pond Removal north of Guelph. Phil Holst spoke about the benefits to water quality and overall health of the area after removal of the dam at Hodges Pond. Discussions regarding the positive benefits of the preferred alternative ensued.

Jeff provided an overview of the “Draft” Project Implementation Plan which will include technical assessment, consultation, detail design, permits and approvals, implementation (site preparation, fish rescue, phased removal) and post-construction monitoring/management. Michael Kukhta questioned whether approvals are required from either Zorra Township or Oxford County. The understanding is that no regulatory approvals are required for removal but Michael will confirm with Zorra Township. Jeff mentioned that phased approach to implementation would be key: adaptive management.

Questioned whether the preferred alternative is set. Once the EA has been filed, the preferred alternative is the solution. Township of Zorra did have a question regarding costs for the preferred alternative. Cost have not been worked out yet. A discussion was held about funding sources. Ducks Unlimited would be interested in this project. The EcoAction Community Funding stream from Environment Canada was also mentioned as potential source that would cover the majority of the cost. Minimum amount is \$25,000 to a maximum of \$100,000. Project can be spread out over 3 years. A call for proposals is expected in January 2024.

### **Next Steps**

Steps include updating the project plan, meeting with Zorra Township, meeting with the UTRCA Board, finishing and filing the EA, obtaining funding, detailed design and construction. Once the EA is filed, it is a public document with a 30 day review period where anyone can review and appeal it.

Phil Holst commented that this project will have positive effects and other landowners in the area will be looking for ways to implement similar projects on their properties

Sarbjit asked members for any questions or comments related to the process or the preferred alternative be submitted to him by December 6<sup>th</sup>.