UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Matrix Solutions Inc. ENVIRONMENT & ENGINEERING

Class Environmental Assessment – Embro Dam
Public Input Form

The Class Environmental Assessment (EA) was initiated to address the concerns regarding spillway capacity and embankments' stability of the Embro Dam, which were identified as part of the Dam Safety Assessment (Acres, 2007). Potential alternatives will be identified and evaluated through the study to address the concerns.

The EA is being undertaken under the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects document (June 2013). Any feedback and comments received will become a part of the public record for the project. Please provide your input below:

Criteria Weighting

The Environmental Assessment process requires alternatives to be evaluated based on four categories of criteria. The sum of weight of each category must add up to 100%. Given the project purpose and site considerations, what do you think is a fair weighting for each category (Note: no category can be assigned zero percentage)?

Criteria Category	Weight (%)
Technical Feasibility	20
Natural Environment	30
Social/Cultural Environment	25
Economic	25
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing

DISLIKE SOMETHING MUST BE DONE
NOT A GOOD ALTERNATIVE

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam

DISLIKE - TEMPORARY FIX

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

LIKE - BEST FOR NATURALIZATION

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

LIKE - BEST FOR NATURAL HABITAT
NEEDS LESS FUTURE CARE

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

DISLIKE - FISH CAN'T GO UPSTREAM
- UNLESS A LADDER IS BUILT
- NEEDS UPKEEP
LIKE - NICE TO HAVE A POND FOR WILDLIFE

Alternative Evaluation

Each of the alternatives will be evaluated by ranking a set of criteria that were selected, based on requirements of the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment process. A numerical ranking system is used to evaluate the criteria of each alternatives with respect to improvements compared to existing conditions that will enable the problem statement to be addressed. A rank of 1 denotes least positive impact and 5 denotes a most positive impact. Two alternatives may receive the same ranking for a criteria if both are considered to be similar with respect to relative positive impact. If you would like to complete a ranking of the criteria, for each alternative – please complete the attached table.

General Comments:

I DON'T FEEL QUALIFIED TO ANSWER THE EVALUATION SHEET.

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

Community Liaison Committee Participation

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☐ Yes, I'm Interested

Please print your name and contact information below, and leave your completed Public Input Form at the front desk. You may also email your comments to singhs@thamesriver.on.ca.

Name: [redacted]
Address & Postal Code:
E-mail Address:
Phone

Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

Thank you for your participation.

For further Information, or to join the project mailing list, please contact:

Sarbjit Singh, E.I.T.
Water Control Structures Technologist
UTRCA
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5V 5B9
Tel: 519 451-2800 ext.245
singhs@thamesriver.on.ca

David Charles, P.Eng.
Supervisor, Water and Erosion Control Structures
UTRCA
1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5V 5B9
Tel: 519 451-2800 ext.244
charlesd@thamesriver.on.ca

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Criteria Weighting

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Criteria Category	Weight (%)
Technical Feasibility	30
Natural Environment	40
Social/Cultural Environment	5
Economic	25
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing

I don't approve

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam

It is out of date to repair small dams that have been blocking fish passage and contributing to warming water temperatures that reduce the quality of the stream/river water.

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

This option is my 2nd preference as it would return the stream back to its former free flowing condition with the added riffles to help oxygenate the water in the cold water stream as well as extending the cold water stream length.

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

This option is brilliant (in my opinion) and whomever designed this deserves a lot of credit for the creativity and multi-functioning of a variety of restored and created habitats that this formerly altered site is able to provide. Every opportunity for diversity is addressed along with the function of filtering and oxygenating the normal and flood flows thru the upgraded system. Well done!

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

This option is better than # 1 and 2 but won't achieve the greater benefits of # 3 and 4.

Alternative Evaluation

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General Comments:

When we consider the land use decisions of the past and have learned that we can improve on our ways today and in the future, I am encouraged by your committment to do so. Thank you for the opportunity for myself and everyone else to play a genuine role in this restoration project.

All the best in your work on the project in the future.

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

I am sure that you have considered using this initiative as a future example or template for landowners to follow and create their version of this proposed restoration on other sites in neighbouring watersheds.

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☑ Yes, I'm Interested

Please print your name and contact information below. Please e-mail the completed form and the evaluation sheet to singhs@thamesriver.on.ca.

Name: [redacted]
Address & Postal Code:
E-mail Address:
Phone

Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

Thank you for your participation.

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Criteria Weighting

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Criteria Category	**Weight (%)**
Technical Feasibility	20
Natural Environment	35
Social/Cultural Environment	25
Economic	20
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing

☆ least desirable
pond is stagnant and fish cannot travel upstream

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam

not feasible, too costly, fish cannot travel upstream

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

allows fish to travel up stream
if flooding occurs silt may travel down stream
natural plants help clean toxic silt

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

allows fish to travel up stream
if flooding occurs offline pond(s) hold excess water and silt
★ most desirable

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

allows fish to travel up stream
Contains the silt, new plantings help clean silt, expensive

Alternative Evaluation

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General Comments:

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

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[redacted]

Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

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UPPER THAMES RIVER
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Criteria Category	Weight (%)
Technical Feasibility	30
Natural Environment	35
Social/Cultural Environment	5
Economic	30
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing DISLIKE - DELAYS THE INEVITABLE

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam DISLIKE - TOO COSTLY

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

LIKE - NATURALIZES AREA

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

DISLIKE - TOO COSTLY

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

LIKE - NATURALIZES AREA
- GOOD FOR FISH HABITAT

Alternative Evaluation

Each of the alternatives will be evaluated by ranking a set of criteria that were selected, based on requirements of the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment process. A numerical ranking system is used to evaluate the criteria of each alternatives with respect to improvements compared to existing conditions that will enable the problem statement to be addressed. A rank of 1 denotes least positive impact and 5 denotes a most positive impact. Two alternatives may receive the same ranking for a criteria if both are considered to be similar with respect to relative positive impact. If you would like to complete a ranking of the criteria, for each alternative – please complete the attached table.

General Comments:

EVALUATION MATRIX IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR
- TOO TECHNICAL - I AM NOT QUALIFIED TO GIVE GOOD INPUT
- NOT SURE WHAT I AM RANKING - MY PERSONAL PREFRENCES? -- ABILITY TO DO WHAT IS SUGGESTED?

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

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Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

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Criteria Category	Weight (%)
Technical Feasibility	30
Natural Environment	30
Social/Cultural Environment	20
Economic	20
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing

Dis-like - eventually it will fail

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam

Dis-like - SAR will still be at risk

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

Dis-like / Like - This ~~would~~ would naturalize the stream.

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

Best Alternative - Naturlize the stream, Create a wetland and help SAR.

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

Dis-like - This won't naturalize the stream or ~~help~~ help SAR.

Alternative Evaluation

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General Comments:

Thank you

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

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Address & Postal Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

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CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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ENVIRONMENT & ENGINEERING

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Criteria Category	Weight (%)
Technical Feasibility	10
Natural Environment	60
Social/Cultural Environment	20
Economic	10
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam

Would maintain present pond and conservation area

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

Alternative Evaluation

Each of the alternatives will be evaluated by ranking a set of criteria that were selected, based on requirements of the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment process. A numerical ranking system is used to evaluate the criteria of each alternatives with respect to improvements compared to existing conditions that will enable the problem statement to be addressed. A rank of 1 denotes least positive impact and 5 denotes a most positive impact. Two alternatives may receive the same ranking for a criteria if both are considered to be similar with respect to relative positive impact. If you would like to complete a ranking of the criteria, for each alternative – please complete the attached table.

General Comments:

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

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Name: _____

Address & Postal Code: _____

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Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

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Criteria Category	Weight (%)
Technical Feasibility	25%
Natural Environment	40%
Social/Cultural Environment	20%
Economic	15%
Sum	**100**

Alternatives

Considering the evaluation criteria required to be assessed through the Environmental Assessment process, what I like and/or dislike about each alternative for the Embro Dam is as follows:

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing Continues to fill in

Alternative 2 – Repair Dam Possible, but nothing really wrong with exsisting except water flow could be better

Alternative 3 – Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel

This would likely be the best option for Returning to a natural envicement.

Alternative 4 – Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)

This will help create a more natural environment for the aquatic life structure and the springs on the western edge of current pond will help fill/create pond or wetlands

Alternative 5 – Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter

Alternative Evaluation

Each of the alternatives will be evaluated by ranking a set of criteria that were selected, based on requirements of the Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment process. A numerical ranking system is used to evaluate the criteria of each alternatives with respect to improvements compared to existing conditions that will enable the problem statement to be addressed. A rank of 1 denotes least positive impact and 5 denotes a most positive impact. Two alternatives may receive the same ranking for a criteria if both are considered to be similar with respect to relative positive impact. If you would like to complete a ranking of the criteria, for each alternative – please complete the attached table.

General Comments: It will continue to fill in with natural sediment over time

Other things that have not been discussed but which the study team should consider?

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[redacted]

Please submit comments by February 13, 2023

Thank you for your participation.

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Sarbjit Singh - EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Re: Public Input for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment

From: [redacted]
To: Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca>
Date: 2023-02-13 10:49 PM
Subject: EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Re: Public Input for the Embro Dam Class Environmental Assessment
CC: [redacted]
Attachments: FillablePIC4OnlinePublicInputForm-Embro-Michael Kukhta-13feb2023-FINAL VERSION.pdf

Dear Sarbit ([redacted]):

I sent the wrong one. I had another version that I saved. Please accept this one - labelled "...final version" (and not the prior one with its spelling errors and missing point).

[redacted]
Chair, Zorra Heritage Committee

On Mon, 13 Feb 2023 at 22:35, [redacted] wrote:

> Dear Sarbjit:
>
> I am attaching my response to the Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam. I had lots of help from the Zorra Heritage Committee. I appreciate the work you and the UTRCA are putting into this Environmental Assessment.
>
> I look forward to hearing about what happens next.
>
> I am also interested in being on the Committee.
>
> [redacted]
> Chair, Zorra Heritage Committee
>
> On Tue, 31 Jan 2023 at 15:26, Sarbjit Singh <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca> wrote:
>
> > Good afternoon,
> > The Public Information Centre #4 (PIC #4) for the on-going Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam was held by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and Matrix Solutions on January 30, 2023. During the information centre, the public was able to view display boards, speak with project staff, and provide written input using public input forms.
> >
> > **Public Consultation**
> > The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) invites additional public input for the selection of the preferred solution for the on-going Class Environmental Assessment for the Embro Dam. Please note that the deadline for the public consultation is February 13, 2023.
> >
> > **How to provide Input?**

1. Go to the project webpage: https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/?doing_wp_cron=1675194312.0055589675903320312500
2. Download the Public Input Form or see attached.
3. You can view the display boards from PIC#4 for further information on the Alternative Solutions.
4. Email the completed Public Input Forms to Sarbjit Singh by February 13, 2023

If you have any questions, please contact Sarbjit Singh, Water Control Structures Technologist, UTRCA; or Mariëtte Pushkar, Project Manager, Fluvial Geomorphologist, Matrix Solutions.

For more information, please visit the project webpage: https://thamesriver.on.ca/water-management/recreational-dams/classea-harrington-embro-dams/embro-dam-class-ea/?doing_wp_cron=1675194312.0055589675903320312500
Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns. Thank you.

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

Sarbjit Singh - EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Community liaison committee

From: [redacted]
To: "Sarbjit Singh" <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca>
Date: 2023-02-01 2:51 PM
Subject: EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Community liaison committee

Hi Sarbjit:
I am interested in being on a Liaison Committee if it is formed.

[redacted]

[redacted]

I have submission for PIC 4 that I should have finished by this afternoon.

[redacted]

Sarbjit Singh - EXTERNAL EXTERNAL PIC4 response

From: [redacted]
To: "Sarbjit Singh" <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca>
Date: 2023-02-01 3:09 PM
Subject: EXTERNAL EXTERNAL PIC4 response
Attachments: Comments for PIC4 for the Embro Dam project.docx

Hi Sarbjit:
Attached is the document that has my comments on the Embro Pond PIC 4 event.

[redacted]

Sarbjit Singh - EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Embro Pond Input Form

From: [redacted]
To: <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca>
Date: 2023-02-08 8:11 PM
Subject: EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Embro Pond Input Form
Attachments: Upper Thames Embro Pond 2023.pdf

Hi Sarbjit

My input form for the Embro Pond public assessment.

Thank you

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca>
Date: 2023-02-09 8:54 AM
Subject: EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Embro Dam Evaluation Form
Attachments: Embro Dam Evaluation20230209.pdf

Hi Sarbjit,

I have attached my completed evaluation form for your review. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project.

All the best,

[redacted]

National Director Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Sarbjit Singh - EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Embro Dam

From: [redacted]
To: <singhs@thamesriver.on.ca>
Date: 2023-02-01 9:41 AM
Subject: EXTERNAL EXTERNAL Embro Dam
Attachments: CEA - Embro Dam.pdf; CEA -Embro Dam.pdf

Please find attached two Public Input Forms for the Embro Dam.

[redacted]

1 = Least preferred
= Least positive Impact

5 = Most preferred
= Most positive Impact

Embro CA Dam EA Evaluation Matrix

Scoring: See Notes

Criteria	Description	Alternative 1 Do Nothing	Alternative 2 Repair Dam	Alternative 3 Remove Dam and Construct a Natural Channel	Alternative 4 Remove Dam and Construct Offline Pond(s) or Wetland(s)	Alternative 5 Lower Dam Crest and Outlet and Naturalize New Pond Perimeter
TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING						
Flooding Impacts/Enhancement	Effectiveness of the alternative to manage or reduce flooding, or not cause negative impacts to flooding	1	1	3	5	2
Dam Safety/Integrity	Effectiveness of the alternative to address dam safety requirements, reduce risk of failure	1	2	3	5	4
Protection of Properties	Effectiveness of the alternative in mitigating risk (flooding, failure) to adjacent properties	1				
Constructability	Potential to construct the project using conventional, accepted construction and engineering practices					
Implementability	Potential to implement the alternative, based on common accepted management practise					
Approvability	Potential for regulatory agencies to grant approval for implementation	5	4	3	2	1
	TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE					
	NORMALIZED CATEGORY SCORE (X% WEIGHTING)					
	CATEGORY RANKING (1 = ~~most preferred; 5 = least preferred~~)					
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT						
Aquatic (Creek) Habitat Impacts/Enhancement	Effectiveness of the alternative to enhance fisheries resources; fish diversity, food source, and fish passage					
Aquatic (Pond) habitat Impacts/Enhancements	Effectiveness of the alternative to enhance pond habitat (fish, fowl, wildlife) resources, diversity, food source					
Terrestrial Habitat Impacts/Enhancement	Potential for impact and/or enhancement to connectivity and terrestrial habitat (amphibian, avian, mammal) due to implementation of the alternative					
SAR Impacts/Enhancement	Potential for impact and/or enhancement to potential SAR in the project area					
Geomorphology/Sediment Transport	Effectiveness of the alternative to promote dynamic stability of channel processes and mitigate sediment impacts					
Groundwater Impacts/Enhancement	Potential for impact and/or enhancement to groundwater regimes in the project area (baseflow, recharge, water table, etc.)					
Water Quality Impacts/Enhancement	Effectiveness of the alternative to improve water quality, temperature, TSS, phosphorous, nutrient uptake				5	
	TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE					
	NORMALIZED CATEGORY SCORE (X% WEIGHTING)					
	CATEGORY RANKING (1 = ~~most preferred; 5 = least preferred~~)					
SOCIAL / CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT						
Impact to Private Property	Measure of the impact to adjacent private property (i.e., loss of property, access to property)					
Impact to Public Access	Measure of impact to public access (e.g., trails, recreation - picnic, fish, boat)					
Impact to Public Safety	Measure of the impact to public safety in the surrounding area resulting from the alternative					
Impact to Cultural/Heritage Features	Potential impact to existing cultural and/or heritage features in the project area					
Recreational Impacts/Enhancement	Measure of the impact to existing recreation and opportunities to enhance recreational activities in the project area					
	TOTAL CATEGORY SCORE					
	NORMALIZED CATEGORY SCORE (X% WEIGHTING)					
	CATEGORY RANKING (1 = ~~most preferred; 5 = least preferred~~)					