

Regulatory Approvals for Stream Restoration – Two approaches to DFO authorization

**Jessica Kellerman, P.Eng.¹,
Melissa Ryan, M.Sc., P.Eng.²,
Brent Valere³**

¹Project Manager – Water Resources, City of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada

²Design and Construction Project Manager, City of Kitchener, Kitchener, ON, Canada

*³Senior Fisheries Protection Program Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
Burlington, ON, Canada)*

This is a proposed session or set of related presentations (Two 30-minute sessions).

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans requires the assessment for project authorization if it is determined that there could be a risk of harm to fish or aquatic habitat due to restoration or related in-stream works. If there is a risk to aquatic species or habitat, a project review will be conducted followed by an application for authorization if the project cannot avoid or mitigate impacts to fish. The process of obtaining an authorization has changed over the last few years as these reviews were previously carried out by the conservation authorities. The process of submitting project review directly to DFO is a somewhat new process. The impacts of authorizations to municipalities can be challenging and strategies need to be developed to help mitigate the impacts of these authorizations on stream restoration work and habitat improvements. These presentations will illustrate lessons learned and program developed from two municipal capital stream restoration projects and aim to demonstrate the processes and programs that can be followed through the DFO approval process.

City of Waterloo – Forwell Creek Channel Rehabilitation

The City of Waterloo recently completed channel rehabilitation on Forwell Creek from King St. to Blue Springs Drive. As a part of this project, DFO completed a review of the offsetting works and it was determined that an authorization was required. The City went through the lengthy and costly process of determining the requirements of the authorization. This included the need for council approval, the issuance of a letter of credit from the City in the amount of the offsetting works and funding of a post construction monitoring program. Lessons learned will include how to plan for a potential authorization and understanding the requirements.

City of Kitchener – Filsinger Park Channel Restoration

The City of Kitchener completed a channel restoration project which transformed 1.8 km of concrete channel into a meandering naturalized creek within a park setting. Our retained consultants suggested the idea that this work might be considered for a habitat bank as a result of the significant improvement to fisheries habitat. The presentation will discuss the process that we went through and the many benefits and advantages to creating a habitat bank including what hurdles were faced in getting senior management

support for this concept. The presentation will also discuss the long term vision for this bank and how this has impacted creek rehabilitation prioritization works.

DFO – Habitat Banking

See Brent Valere's abstract submittal