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The Evolution of DFO Habitat Banking
Agenda

1. Fish Habitat Banks
2. Benefits
3. City of Kitchener
4. Case Studies
5. Lessons Learned
6. Questions
Fish Habitat Banks
Fish Habitat Banks

- What they are
- Benefits to proponent
- Relatively new
- Evolving
- Formalized in the new draft Fisheries Act
Benefits
Benefits to DFO

• Compensation or offsetting done in advance of impacts
• Not chasing proponents after the fact
Benefits to the Proponent

• Greater clarity – fewer surprises
• Speeds permitting under the Fisheries Act
City of Kitchener

- Stream restoration is a big component of the City’s Stormwater Master Plan
- Stormwater Utility has identified 20 stream projects
- Filsinger was the first and used to “open the bank”
- Working on 2 other projects (Balzer and Idlewood), that will be the new deposits into the bank
- Consider selling credits inside the City to recover cost of restoration
Case Studies
Filsinger

• Most straightforward
• No existing habitat
• 3 years of post-construction monitoring:
  - Benthics
  - Fish
  - Water Quality
  - Vegetation
  - Channel Stability
• Credits based on the areas of $\frac{1}{2}$ bankfull width of finished project
Filsinger Status

- Currently in third year of monitoring
- On track to produce the maximum of 12,600 m² of fish habitat
Balzer

- Much more challenging since there was some fish habitat
- Had to develop a way of calculating the existing habitat
- ½ bankfull width – used Regional Curve
- Had to make the measurements more quantitative
- Changes to benthics, vegetation, fish, and dropped WQ monitoring
Balzer Status

- In first year of post-construction monitoring
- No results yet
- Could yield up to 1,438 habitat credits
Idlewood Creek

• Removal of two dams and restoration of portions of channel
• Channel restoration similar to Balzer Creek
• Dam removal had to develop a new methodology
• ¼ bankfull width
Idlewood Status

- Design is complete
- Pre-bid meeting held on Wednesday of this week
- Construction this summer/fall
- Could yield up to 4,595 habitat credits
Lessons Learned
What We Have Learned

• DFO supports fish habitat banking
• Rules have not yet been written
• DFO is open to ideas (methodology, post-construction monitoring)
• Some design philosophies are better suited to fish habitat banking than others
• Some projects are better suited to fish habitat banking that others
• When monitoring for Filsinger, Balzer and Idlewood is complete, the City should have more than 18,000 m² of fish habitat credits
Changes the City Would Like

• DFO to allow proponent to use habitat credits instead of a Letter of Credit
• DFO to allow third party banking
• Third party banking could be a major driving force behind aquatic habitat restoration
Questions?
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