



June 23, 2017

**Via: Email**

Janet Amos, RPP  
Amos Environment and Planning  
1236 Butter and Egg Road  
Bracebridge ON P1L 1X4

Dear Ms. Amos:

**Re: Seaton Roads Environmental Assessment  
Revised Road Plans  
Project No.: 300035482.0000**

## **1.0 Background**

R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited (Burnside) was retained by the Seaton Landowners Group to address natural heritage requirements in support of Phases 3 and 4 of the Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for proposed arterial and collector roads within the Seaton Lands. Existing natural heritage and species at risk (SAR) information was obtained from planning documents and mapping prepared from 2006 to 2015 (refer to Table A, attached). Natural heritage information was then categorized as terrestrial (ELC), wetland or aquatic habitat. Existing SAR information was categorized as Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*; BOBO)/Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*; EAME), Redside Dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*), or Other Bird SAR [which included Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) and Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*).

It is understood that for arterial and collector roads in Seaton, approvals under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) for Redside Dace, BOBO and EAME are to be dealt with by the Landowner Group, through a streamlined approach developed in consultation with Aurora District Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). For Butternut and Other Bird SAR, it is the responsibility of individual landowners to comply with the ESA and obtain any required approvals, on a case-by-case basis.

## **2.0 Study Approach**

### **2.1 Data Gap Analysis and Compilation**

Following collation of existing natural heritage and SAR information, a comprehensive analysis was completed to identify any data gaps and determine whether updated natural heritage information was required to inform the evaluation of road design alternatives. Preliminary data gaps were addressed through a desktop assessment, which included:

- Aerial photograph interpretation.
- Review of publically available natural heritage mapping and datasets, and/or
- Acquisition of data from more recent SAR surveys and assessments conducted by consultants on behalf of individual landowners.

Based on results of the data gap analysis and additional information available through SAR surveys, it was determined that no further field work (i.e., ground-truthing or collection of new information) was required.

## **2.2 Impact Evaluation and Recommendations**

Applicable natural heritage information was then included on natural heritage system (NHS) crossing figures, generated by GHD Limited. The updated road grading limits were overlain on the compiled natural heritage and SAR information in order to quantify areas of impact (e.g., wetland loss) based on ELC community type and the locations of SAR (e.g., Butternut in vicinity of proposed grading activities).

The compiled natural heritage information was then cross-referenced with recommendations contained in the Master Environmental Servicing Plan Amendment (MESPA; The Sernas Group *et al.*, July 2013) and draft Neighbourhood Functional Servicing and Stormwater Management Reports (NFSSRs), completed by various consultants, to determine whether additional recommendations/revisions related to design considerations, mitigation measures, and/or monitoring were required. Fisheries, wildlife passage, vegetation management and SAR recommendations were then updated and summarized in the 2015 column of the Roads Checklists. An example of this is how Butternut are being dealt with in the Overall Benefit Plan (Bird and Hale 2015), including planting and monitoring requirements as well as implementation per landowners.

## **3.0 Summary**

Numerous detailed natural heritage and SAR studies have been undertaken by various consultants within the Seaton Lands. The data, which was collected between 2005 and 2016, was reviewed and compiled to inform the evaluation of impacts of the alternative designs for the proposed arterial and collector road network, on the NHS. Impacts were quantified by overlaying the road grading plans for the preferred alternative solution on existing natural heritage and SAR information. Recommendations were subsequently provided to minimize impacts to the NHS, with consideration given to recommendations from the previously completed MESPA and draft NFSSRs.

Should you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited**



Jennifer Szczerbak, B.Sc, EMPD  
Senior Ecologist  
JS:sr

Enclosure(s)

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**TABLE A: REFERENCES**  
**Seaton Roads (Phases 3-4) Class EA Study**

Number	Title	Year	Proponent / Author(s)
1.	Central Pickering Development Plan	2006	Province of Ontario
2.	Seaton Master Environmental Servicing Plan, Phase 1, Existing Conditions Report	2008	North Pickering Community Inc.
3.	Seaton Master Environmental Servicing Plan Amendment	2014	North Pickering Community Inc.
3 a.	Chapter A, Introduction		
3 b.	Chapter B, Water Resources		
3 c.	Chapter C, Transportation		
3 d.	Chapter D, Municipal Servicing		
3 e.	Chapter E, Endangered Species		
3 f.	Chapter F, Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat		
3 g.	Chapter G, Major Community Facilities		
3 h.	Chapter H, Consultation		
3 i.	Chapter I, Phasing		
3 j.	Chapter J, Future Study Requirements		
4.	Neighbourhood Functional Servicing and Stormwater Reports (NFSSR)		Seaton Landowners
4 a.	Neighbourhood #16, 2013	2013	
4 b.	Neighbourhood #18, 2013	2013	
4 c.	Neighbourhood #19, 2013	2013	
4 d.	Neighbourhood #17, to be completed	-	
4 e.	Neighbourhood #20, to be completed	-	
4 f.	Neighbourhood #21 (Infrastructure Ontario), Phases 1-2	2014	
5.	Seaton Staging and Implementation Strategy	2013	North Pickering Community Inc.
6.	CPDP Regional Class EA Study, Existing Conditions Report	2008	Region of Durham
7.	CPDP Regional Class EA Study, Final Report	2014	Region of Durham
8.	Supplementary Stormwater Report of the Regional Services Class EA Study	2014	Region of Durham
9.	Seaton Redside Dace Mapping	2014	North Pickering Community Inc./MNR
10.	Development Plan for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark	2015	North Pickering Community Inc.
11.	Seaton Floodplain Mapping	2013	North Pickering Community Inc.
12.	Comprehensive Aquatic Framework for Authorizations under the Endangered Species Act (2007) for Works Within Regulated Redside Dace Habitat	2015	North Pickering Community Inc.