

Staff Report – Supplement

Date: October 19, 2010

To: RVCA Board of Directors

From: Director, Watershed Science and Engineering Services

Subject: **Britannia Village Flood Control Project**

Petition from Britannia Flood Plain Homeowners

Recommendations:

that the Board of Directors receive this report as supplementary to the staff report dated October 18, 2010 on the same subject,

that the RVCA acknowledge the petition submitted on behalf of Concerned Britannia Flood Plain Homeowners and accept it as an indication that the proposed flood control project is not supported by a majority of its intended beneficiaries,

that staff be directed to consult with City of Ottawa officials to determine how the City wishes to proceed, and report back to the Board when appropriate,

that the RVCA's next steps in the planning and design of the flood control project (as outlined in the staff report dated October 18, 2010) be postponed, pending the outcome of consultations with the City officials and further direction from the Board,

that RVCA remain available to engage with City of Ottawa officials and community representatives in the exploration of other appropriate and acceptable ways of managing flood risks in the Britannia Village community.

Background

The attached covering letter, submitted on behalf of Concerned Britannia Flood Plain Homeowners, was received on October 19, 2010 with a copy of a signed petition which reads as follows:

“Petition to Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and City of Ottawa

In light of new information that has emerged over the last three years concerning the Britannia Flood Protection Project – a large escalation in costs, an insignificant safety risk from possible flooding, and the continuation of building restrictions even if the work goes ahead – we, the undersigned owners of property on the flood plain request that the current project be halted.

We recommend that the RVCA convene meetings with affected property owners to consider alternative, more acceptable strategies, if necessary.”

Staff have examined the addresses associated with the signatures on the petition to confirm that the list of petitioners represents 65% of the private property parcels in the area that would benefit from the project by way of reduced property damage and community disruption during future flood events over the service life of the project.

An earlier staff report to the Board (in January 2010) included this observation:

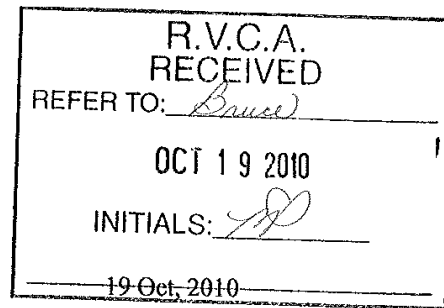
In view of this updated (albeit qualitative) assessment of the project’s benefits and costs, the City and community could logically be led to a decision to proceed no further with the implementation of this remedial flood control project, on the basis that the cost of building it will exceed the present value of the benefits to be gained from it.

If the project does not proceed, other measures that can and should be considered to further reduce the flood damage potential in this community include:

- flood-proofing of individual structures within the flood-prone area by landowners
- continued flood forecasting and warning services by the RVCA in cooperation with MNR and the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board
- flood contingency planning by residents, landowners and the City
- continued delivery of established flood control operations by the City

The City’s decision in July, 2010 to proceed with the project to an adjusted maximum cost was made in the absence of an up-to-date survey of the level of support for the project within the benefitting community. In light of this more recent petition, RVCA staff believe the City should be invited to review and reconsider the merits of going forward with the project before spending additional resources on it.

B.A. Reid, P.Eng.
Watershed Science and Engineering Services



Mr. Alan Arbuckle, Chair
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
3889 Rideau Valley Dr
PO Box 559
Manotick, ON
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Subject: Petition from Britannia Flood Plain Homeowners

Dear Chair & Members of the RVCA Board of Directors,

The attached petition demonstrates that the current Britannia Flood Protection Project is not supported by the majority of its intended beneficiaries. Britannia flood plain homeowners - significantly in excess of the number that signed the Survey of Interest to launch the flood protection plan in 2007 - have indicated their desire that the City of Ottawa and RVCA halt the current plan immediately. The present tally shows that 64 of the 98 (65%) flood plain homeowners (including two multi-unit properties) have signed this petition.

We trust that the RVCA along with the City of Ottawa will acknowledge and act on the position of the majority of flood plain homeowners.

We look forward to being advised of your next steps.

Sincerely,



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(on behalf of the Concerned Britannia Flood Plain Homeowners)

cc. Dell Hallet, P. Eng General Manager
Bruce Reid, P. Eng Director, Watershed Science & Engineering Services
Ottawa City Councillors
Gina Gill, Co-ordinator, Rehabilitation Planning & Policy