

From: [Buck, Graham \(MNRF\)](#)
To: [Neal DeRuyter](#); [Kevin Trimble](#); glourenco@capitalpaving.on.ca
Cc: [Strong, Steven \(MNRF\)](#)
Subject: RE: Shantz Station Pit - Road Design
Date: October-20-20 1:56:16 PM

Hi Neal,

Thank-you for providing the detailed design drawings for the proposed road through the Wagner Woodlot. I am pleased to offer the following comments on the *Access Road Management /Ecological Enhancement and Compensation Plan* (which includes the drawings through the Wagner Woodlot) for your consideration:

Access Road

On September 29th Glenn Cunnington, Kevin Trimble and Graham Buck discussed the impacts of the wetland access road to the Breslau Swamp Wetland Complex. The main discussion point were the concerns expressed by MNRF of the proposed jersey barriers negatively impacting reptile and amphibian populations. Based on the meeting this issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the MNRF. This is based on the following 4 factors:

1. There is currently limited reptile and amphibian movement across the current laneway, likely because similar habitat conditions exist on both sides.
2. The proposed jersey barriers will keep reptiles and amphibians off the road, thereby significantly reducing the chance of animal mortality. However this will prevent unrestricted passage between the wetlands on the property, which currently exists.
3. At the current elevation of the road, if culverts were installed, they would be completely submerged in the spring, at the time of year they would be primarily be used. Whereas a partially submerged culvert is attractive to turtles and likely other wildlife, whereas a completely submerged culvert is not useable by anything other than fish, which is not the wildlife target.
4. In order to reduce the water levels in the culverts the road would need to be raised above the current grade. This would increase the foot print of he road into the natural habitats.

Therefore, rather than focus on wildlife passage through the wetlands located north and south of the access road, during the meeting we all agreed it could potentially be more beneficia for reptile and amphibian populations in the wetland to enhance the east-west connections between the Breslau Swamp Wetland Complex, the Hopewell Creek Wetland Complex and Hopewell Creek. By enhancing connectivity at a landscape scale, the proposal could result more resilient reptile and amphibian populations in the entire area.

A key component of the this landscape scale enhancement is the movement of wildlife through the Wagner Woodlot. Since wildlife barriers are only proposed for the section of the haul route that bisects the wetland, it is important to ensure the proposed haul route is not negatively impacting reptiles and amphibians within the

Wagner Woodlot. Therefore, details on mitigation measures (wildlife barriers, eco-passages, monitoring, adaptive management etc.) that are proposed for the section of road through the Wagner Woodlot are appreciated. This will allow MNR to ensure the haul route will not have a negative impact on the proposed wildlife habitat enhancement measures.

Pond Creation:

More information on the logs proposed for the pond is appreciated. Further details, such as how many logs, how large of logs/trees and log anchor points (partially buried or secured to the shoreline) could be included in this section. Also, the plant list for the pond could be expanded to include a larger diversity of plants. The following list is provided for your consideration: Yellow pond-lilies (Nuphar spp.), Bur-reeds (Sparganium spp.), Softstem Rush, Sedges (Carex spp.), Bullrushes (Scirpus spp.), Northern Blue Flag, Sweet Flag, Marsh Marigold, Eupatorium (Joe-pye-weed, Boneset), Blue Vervain, Lobelias (Cardinal Flower, Great Blue Lobelia), Monkeyflower, Bur-marigold. In my experience it is beneficial to create a diverse plant community in the early stages, before *Typha* spp. establish.

Turtle Nesting Habitat:

Although weeding of the turtle nesting areas is beneficial to ensure use by turtles; the timing of the scheduled disturbance is critical to ensure the successful use of the feature. Since turtle eggs can remain viable underground until the following spring weeding should occur as close to the new turtle nesting season as possible. This will provide the maximum amount of time for last years eggs to hatch. The ideal time for mechanical weeding, in this part of Ontario, is after May 1st and before May 15th, which is just before the new turtle season begins. It is probably safe to assume that any eggs which have not hatched by May 1st of the following year are probably not viable.

Side Slopes and Naturalized Planting Areas:

Since Blue Vervain is a wetland species Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*) might be more appropriate species for a dry site. Also, since Dense Blazing-star receives Endangered Species Act protection, it could be removed from species list.

General Comment:

Since the rehabilitation site plan references the Access Road Management /Ecological Enhancement and Compensation Plan, the wording used throughout the document needs to be definitive. Since this document will be sued by MNR undertaking inspections of the site, wording such as “should” and “where possible” need to be replaced with words such as shall, must, is, are to be, etc. Also, whenever possible, definitive numbers, species, dates etc. need to be used.

Sincerely,

Graham Buck

Planning Ecologist

Integrated Aggregates Operations Section

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Subject: Shantz Station Pit - Road Design

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Steve / Graham:

In case you have not seen these yet, please find attached the detailed design drawings for the proposed road through the woodland (the drawings for the existing laneway are included in the Management Plan). Of note, the jersey barriers are only proposed to be located adjacent to the wetland. They would not continue along the new section of the road.

Thanks

Neal

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