

Elbow Diversion & Storage to Priddis/Fish Creeks concept

Your Chance to Comment

2014-04-04 Update from Councillor Suzanne Oel, M. D. of Foothills

What is proposed?

An historic diversion & storage proposal which would send flood waters from the Elbow River to the Priddis/Fish Creeks drainage area is on the table for consideration by the Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force and Provincial Ministerial Task Force, as an option to reduce flood waters affecting the Elbow River communities, area and Glenmore Reservoir in Calgary.

The Reports

You can find these reports on my website, top right on the front-page: <http://suzanneoel.com/>

- **Elbow River Historic Detention & Diversion Sites Report** – re-evaluated January 2014
- **My Letter** with comments & concerns including Foothills residents' & municipal perspective
- **Bow Basin Flood Mitigation & Watershed Management Project** - March 31, 2104 flood reduction options assessment report (funded by Alberta Innovates – Energy/ Environmental Solutions & the Flood Recovery Task Force).

This report presents the modelling results and extensive discussion for each individual mitigation option as well as what might be possible for this Spring, Spring of 2015 and longer term options to achieve three different target flood flows. The project used the Bow River Operations Model (BROM) built by Bow River water managers and experts over the four years prior to the flood. Many different approaches to mitigation were explored: changing existing reservoir operations, diversions, dry dams, wetland storage, land management, restoring natural river functions, and relocation.

The report contains information and ideas on the watersheds in our area, with references to the **Elbow** in Section 6.2 (pgs. 28-29), in Section 7.2 (pgs. 58-72 - with comments specifically on the Priddis/Fish Creek Diversion & storage on pages 61, 62, 63), followed by Targets in Section 8 with measures identified in 8.2 for 2015 (pg. 98), for future in Section 8.3 (pgs. 103, 107, 112), and Key Messages at the end of the report (pgs. 166-118). I am pleased that the report has captured the concerns of our area (pages 61-63) and in the Key Messages. However, I remain concerned that we stay engaged as storage and diversion to the Priddis/Fish Creek route or other channel continues to be included in the Elbow flow-reduction target solutions (pgs. 98, 103, 107, 112).

The Process – Where we are at?

Current as of March 31, 2014:

- All proposed ideas are on the table, all flood impacted watersheds; we are at the screening stage
- March 31, 2014 flood reduction options assessment report has been sent to Flood Recovery Task Force and Provincial Ministerial Task Force
- Preliminary engineering reports which inform some proposals are to be considered by the task force and ministerial group

NOW – April 4, 2014: Time for your comments before decisions are made on the short-list

- Foothills met with the Flood Recovery Task Force & Associate Minister for Recovery & Reconstruction Southern Alberta, Kyle Fawcett, on April 2 and were able to clarify this opportunity for your input

Next 2-3 Weeks:

- Decisions on short-listing potential mitigation projects to undergo further evaluation will take place in the next 2-3 weeks, between now and the April 29, 2014 Flood Symposium
- Decisions to be announced around or at the April 29 Flood Symposium event

After April 29, 2104:

- Projects/proposals/concepts deemed to have merit are to be further investigated with in-depth engineering and full public consultation – we will be included in the planning if this goes forward
- Decisions have to be made on determining “what levels we are mitigating to” in order to answer the technical/ engineering, social, environmental and philosophical questions on mitigation measures

Action - Your chance to send in your comments

To have your comments heard now and recorded before the next phase, please send your message within the next 2 weeks. You have the opportunity to provide your comments in 3 places:

1. Email - directly to the Flood Recovery Task Force:
Mitigation Secretariat <MitigationSecretariat@gov.ab.ca>
2. Email & Social Media - the WaterPortal has the assessment report posted with a Comment Box for providing feedback that can be seen by others as well as e-mail and social media options for feedback: <http://albertawater.com/alberta-water-blog/1704-flood-mitigation-in-the-bow-basin>
3. Email - to your M. D. of Foothills – CC me on your emails to 1 & 2 above:
Suzanne Oel <so@suzanneoel.com>

Future Updates

Further updates from the Flood Recovery Task Force & reports, etc.:

<http://www.albertawater.com/work/research-projects/flood-recovery-task-force>

You can attend or watch the April 29, 2014 Flood Symposium On-line & view information posted since the 2013 Floods:

<http://alberta.ca/flood-symposium.cfm>

You can see the proposed flood mitigation projects on the Alberta map:

<http://alberta.ca/flood-mitigation.cfm>

Thanks for interest in our community!

With Best Regards,

Suzanne Oel
Councillor Div. 4
M. D. of Foothills
403.931.2711