

Good afternoon Jonathan,

This office acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Petition, dated May 28, 2020, for the area outlined in your attached correspondence requesting drainage to the existing "ditch". Please note that due to COVID-19, we are working remotely at this time and staff are not consistently in the office to receive mail. We have reviewed the area in question and have the following comments to provide.

The subject lands are located within the limit of regulation (Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*) which is under the jurisdiction of the Essex Region Conservation Authority. Prior to undertaking work in this area, a "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Permit" is required from this office. There is a modelled waterway located downstream of where you indicated the works are to be undertaken. Any proposed works cannot change the 1:100 year flood elevations.

Please note that it appears that the area in which the works are being proposed may contain natural heritage features. If during the design of the project, significant natural heritage features are identified, this office could request a biological assessment of the identified features as part of our requirements under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The proponent would be required to have a qualified biologist undertake a biological assessment of the proposed works. The purpose of the biological assessment is to ensure that the proposed works will not adversely impact any natural heritage issues and/or to determine measures that will mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

It should also be noted that the issuance of any approvals for drainage works on this site does not imply that future approvals for development on this site can be obtained. It is the proponent's responsibility to ensure that all municipal, provincial and federal authorizations have been obtained and that all applicable legislation is adhered to.

We suggest that the appointed engineer provides our office with a draft report prior to bringing the final report before council to ensure that all concerns with respect to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* have been addressed.

With respect to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), the *Ontario Endangered Species Act* inquiries are now handled by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, specifically the "Species at Risk Branch" and the new e-mail address for handling these inquiries is now [SAROntario@ontario.ca](mailto:SAROntario@ontario.ca). Prior to any proposed works in this area, contact should be made with the Species at Risk Branch of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to confirm any issues with respect to the *Endangered Species Act*. It is the proponent's responsibility to ensure all issues related to the *Endangered Species Act* are addressed. All inquiries regarding the *Endangered Species Act* should be made with the Permissions and Compliance Section of the MECP (email address: [SAROntario@ontario.ca](mailto:SAROntario@ontario.ca)).

With respect to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) concerns and comments, the proposed works will need to be self-assessed by the Town of LaSalle, the proponent, through the DFO website at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>. Through the self-assessment process, the proponent will be able to determine if the proposed works will require a formal authorization under the *Fisheries Act*.

If further information or clarification is required, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Kind regards,



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