

# Erin Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

Coalition for the West Credit River

9 June 2022



ONTARIO  
RIVERS  
ALLIANCE



Izaak Walton  
Fly Fishing Club



Trout Unlimited Canada



Greg Clark Chapter



Photo: Steven Noakes

# Goals

Working to address the Erin WWTP:

- ▶ Potential to impact water quality of the West Credit River
- ▶ Protection and improvement of habitat and stream resilience
- ▶ Conservation of West Credit River Brook Trout



Photo: Steven Noakes

# Current Project Status

- ▶ **Environmental Compliance Approval issued by MECP**
  - ✓ Chiller system required for effluent prior to discharge
  - ✓ Effluent discharge temperature objective is 19°C
  - ✓ Real-time water quality monitoring program with CVC
- ▶ **Construction initiated**
- ▶ **Effluent Cooling System design underway**
  - ▶ Addendum to ECA required for Effluent Cooling System
- ▶ **Operations and Maintenance Manual development underway**

# ECA Consultation

## Insufficient stakeholder consultation turn-around time:

- ▶ Coalition was provided draft ECA on April 19<sup>th</sup>
  - ▶ Submitted recommendations on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to ensure Brook Trout's sensitive biological requirements are met
  - ▶ None of these recommendations were included in the ECA
- ▶ Region of Peel was provided draft ECA on April 20<sup>th</sup> with a comment deadline of April 27<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ **MECP issued ECA on May 3, 2022**

# Coalition Recommendations

## Recommendation 1:

Effluent temperature objective be 17° C from July 1 to September 30 and 9° C from October 1 to November 30.

## Rationale:

Cooling system should run continuously until the effluent entering the final pumping station reaches 18° C, but preferably even lower to 17° C to ensure summer stream temperature stays at or below 19° C.

Elevated effluent temperatures persist right through spawning season and into mid-November.

# Coalition Recommendations

## Recommendation 2:

Dissolved Oxygen compliance limit in the final effluent be increased from 4 mg/L to a minimum of 6 mg/L, but preferably 9.5 mg/L as per the [Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Guidelines](#).

## Recommendation 3:

If dissolved oxygen level in the effluent drops below 9.5 mg/L, air shall be introduced into the effluent at the final effluent pumping station to bring the dissolved oxygen in the effluent above 9.5 mg/L

## Rationale:

Brook Trout cannot survive in water with dissolved oxygen at 4 mg/L. Induced responses include respiratory gasping, avoidance and feeding cessation when below 5 mg/L



Photo: Steven Noakes

# Coalition Recommendations

## Recommendation 4:

ECA specify that CVC post all water quality and effluent temperature monitoring data to their website in real-time so the public can be assured of the health and safety of the Brook Trout and West Credit River ecosystem.

## Rationale:

ECA currently allows a 2-week time delay to Quality Control the real-time monitoring data before it's posted to the Town's website. This is not real-time data for the public.

# Coalition Recommendations

## Recommendation 5:

ECA be amended to read as follows: “The Owner shall develop a notification procedure in consultation with the District Manager, SAC and CVC, and notify all those who have registered on the Town of Erin website to receive Bypass Event emails in real-time in the event of an Overflow or Bypass\_Event.”

## Rationale:

Wording of the current text allows the “Owner” a judgment call on whether downstream water users may be adversely impacted by a Bypass or Overflow event. A highly effective model for the Town of Erin to follow is the [City of Sudbury Bypass Alerts](#), where the public can register on the City’s website to receive email notification of sewer Bypass Alerts or wastewater overflows in real-time.



Photo: Steven Noakes

# Coalition Recommendations

## **Recommendation 6:**

The two downstream monitoring stations be located at Winston Churchill Boulevard (WCB), at the downstream edge of the culvert, and 200m downstream.

## **Rationale:**

Monitoring stations will be more relevant if positioned to effectively monitor and protect the sensitive spawning and nursery habitat located within 200m of the effluent discharge location.



# Coalition Recommendations

## Recommendation 7:

Coalition be included in the drafting of the Operations & Maintenance Manual as a participating and commenting stakeholder.

## Rationale:

Coalition's Technical Team (Team) is a value-added commenting stakeholder, with a proven track record of working with the MECP on technical issues that have resulted in a number of recommendations in our draft Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan being incorporated into the ECA in one form or another.

# How Peel Region Can Help

1. Write a letter to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks supporting the Coalition's recommendations to improve the ECA
2. Write a letter to the Town of Erin requesting that the:
  - a. General public has access to monitoring data in real-time through the CVC website portal consistent with other real-time stations
  - b. Coalition be considered a participating and commenting stakeholder in the preparation of the draft OMM
  - c. Region of Peel be notified, in real time, of Overflow or Bypass-Events

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest of evergreen trees. The river is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The trees are a mix of dark green and lighter, yellowish-green, suggesting a mix of species or perhaps the beginning of autumn. The river flows from the top center towards the bottom center of the frame.

THANK YOU