

## 8. Public, Agency and First Nations Consultation and Engagement

Several methods of communication and consultation and engagement were used during the One River EA to engage the Public, First Nations Community Members, relevant Agencies, Stakeholders and other interested parties in meaningful ways to receive input and feedback. The objectives of the Phase 1 Public Consultation and Engagement Program were to:

- Introduce the One River Master Plan EA to the community
- Direct residents to the GetInvolved.london.ca website to learn more about the EA and participate in the Online One River Public Survey
- Engage community members in meaningful conversations about the One River Master Plan EA to gather constructive, solutions-based input
- Inform the ultimate selection of an alternative for the Springbank Dam
- To continuously monitor the success of the Public Consultation and Engagement Program in reaching its audiences, and to adjust the program, as required

The objectives of the Phase 2 Public Consultation and Engagement Program were to:

- Present Council's decision to move forward with the One River EA Stage 1 recommendation to decommission the Springbank Dam
- Introduce the One River Master Plan EA, Springbank Dam Schedule B EA and Forks of the Thames Schedule B EA projects to the community
- Engage community members in meaningful conversations about the three components of the EA to gather constructive, solutions-based input specific to each part of the project
- Inform the ultimate selection of an alternative for each of the components of the EA
- To continuously monitor the success of the Public Consultation and Engagement Program in reaching its audiences, and to adjust the program, as required

A variety of strategies and tools were used to gain widespread and accessible participation in the public engagement process. These are described within this report section. Refer to Appendix B for additional documentation of Public Consultation activities.

### 8.1 Agency Consultation

As part of the Master Plan EA process relevant government agencies were provided a Notice of Study Commencement for the One River EA and asked to provide any comments regarding the requirements for the conduct of the EA. The Notice of Commencement is provided in Appendix B-1.

#### 8.1.1 Agency Advisory Committee

Specific government agencies were asked to participate in an Agency Advisory Committee for the One River EA. The main objective of the Agency Advisory Committee is to provide guidance and feedback to the project team on environmental, social/cultural, technical and regulatory issues and challenges that could impact the decision-making with respect to the evaluation of options for the One River EA project.

The Agency Advisory Committee is comprised of the following representatives from a variety of agencies, including the MECP, MNRF, UTRCA, LTVCA, and the DFO:

- Scott Abernethy – Surface Water Group Leader MECP
- Emilia Kuisma – Issues Project Coordinator, MECP

- Craig Newton – Regional Environmental Planner, MECP
- Jason Lehouillier – Acting District Manager, MECP
- Mary Alikakos – Senior Advisor, Outreach and Program Support, MECP (Formerly with Chippewas of the Thames First Nations for initial meeting)
- Claire Paller – Aylmer District Planner, MNRF (2017)
- Karina Cerniavskaja– Aylmer District Planner, MNRF (2018)
- Kathryn Markham – Aylmer District Planner, MNRF (2018)
- Chris Tasker – Manager, Water and Information Management UTRCA
- Mark Snowsell – Land Use Regulations Officer, UTRCA
- Don Pearson – General Manager, LTVCA (2017)
- Mark Peacock- General Manager, LTVCA (2018)
- Jennie Ryman – Fisheries Protection Biologist, DFO

Some representatives from certain agencies changed over the course of the project. In these cases, the year the representative served on the One River EA Agency Advisory Committee is indicated in brackets.

**8.1.1.1 2017 Stage 1 Agency Advisory Committee Meetings**

Three meetings were held with the Agency Advisory Committee at key milestones during Stage 1 of the EA to receive input, guidance, and feedback. The objective of these meetings was to examine the issues and challenges associated with the evaluation of options for the Springbank Dam. All input was considered in the Stage 1 decision-making process, and a summary report for the initial three Agency Advisory Committee meetings (including meeting material, agenda and minutes) was completed and is included in Appendix B-2.

The discussions at the three initial Agency Advisory Meetings was facilitated through the presentation of information by subject matter experts including members of the consultant team, City of London Environmental and Parks Planning Division, and UTRCA staff. The comments that have been provided as part of the Agency Advisory Committee report (Appendix B-2) are summarized below:

- Subject Matter Expert Comments:
  - There is now more habitat available and a related increase in populations of numerous important native species of fish, mussels and reptiles since the failure of the Springbank Dam.
  - Repair of the Springbank Dam would lead to habitat loss for several endangered and threatened species at risk.
  - Reinstating the dam would negatively impact turtle population recovery due to direct loss of habitat. Also, acting as a barrier, the dam would limit movement between interconnected habitat for the turtles (nesting, laying, and feeding areas).
  - There is more information available for Spiny Softshell turtles relative to other species, so it's the best indicator species we have in terms of the success of other species.
  - A reinstated dam operation would create additional habitat for zebra mussels and other invasive species.
  - Based on the available data, continued inoperation of the dam and allowing the river to return to a more natural state would benefit most native species.
  - Other dams like the Fanshawe Dam offer flood control essential for life and property protection, while the Springbank Dam only provides a recreational benefit.

- Social (e.g. canoeing and rowing) factors are important considerations decision-making with respect to the future function of the dam.
- The Recovery Strategies created under SARA identifies critical habitat, such as the 8 km stretch of the river in the study area.
- An overall net benefit permit would be required to reinstate operation of the dam.
- Current critical habitat mapping for the Thames in the study area (from just below the dam to the upstream sections of the river at the forks) are not based on an assessment of critical habitat that has developed since the dam failed.
- Many areas within the study area would now qualify as critical habitat for several species.
- The Silver Shiner, an endangered species of minnow, has been identified in the Thames river study area through the current One River field program, and had been identified when the dam operating. Creating artificial reservoirs along the river is contradictory to natural processes, which can result in significant disturbance and mortality to aquatic and semi-aquatic species that depend on the river for survival.
- Barriers are not appropriate for river-adapted wildlife, especially species at risk within the watershed. It is important to limit the number of such barriers to only those that are deemed essential.
- Given the number of listed species at risk in the study area, the extent the species at risk use the corridor and the mosaic of habitat needed to maintain their life cycle needs, replication of this habitat on another suitable location is not feasible. As such it would be extremely difficult to impossible to justify a net benefit for the Springbank Dam repair option.
- It will be a tremendous challenge to provide the opportunity for habitat compensation in one of the largest and most southern Ontario Rivers that is in a growing urbanized landscape that is shown to be improving since the non-operation of the Springbank Dam.
- Permit requirements for the option of reinstating the Springbank Dam are considered substantially more complex and significantly more difficult to obtain or unlikely to be approved when compared with the option of a free-flowing river (continued inoperation of the dam).
- Agency Comments:
  - To reinstate the dam, a net benefit permit would be required to be signed off by the Minister of the MNRF. That process would be a considerable undertaking and could be very difficult to demonstrate the required net benefit for approvals. While the Springbank dam is not for flood control, it still impacts flooding through operation if it was reinstated. Repurposing the Dam would, therefore, also have an impact on flooding.
  - It is important to look at the critical habitat, water quality, and species in the area in question as holistically as possible.
  - If dam is reinstated fish passage must be provided.
  - A Permit to Take Water (PTTW) would be required if dam is reinstated. PTTW was issued when dam was constructed the status of this approval unknown.
  - While the Spiny Softshell turtle is a terrestrial animal overseen by Environment Canada, its residence is in the water and destruction of residence is prohibited.
  - The MNRF issues permits to authorize an activity that will result in a significant social or economic benefit to Ontario, under section 17(2)(d) of the ESA, also known as D permits.
  - To date, only two D permits have been issued in the province – both are associated with the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway project in the Windsor-Essex region.
  - To receive a social or economic benefit to Ontario permit
    - the activity must result in a significant social or economic benefit to Ontario, and

- the Ministry must consult with an expert on the possible effects of the activity on the species. The expert must submit a written report to the Minister, including his or her opinion on whether the activity will jeopardize the survival or recovery of the species in Ontario.
- In approving an undertaking (or project), the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change must agree that:
  - the activity will not jeopardize the survival or recovery of the species in Ontario,
  - reasonable alternatives have been considered, including those that wouldn't adversely affect the species, and the best alternative has been adopted, and
  - reasonable steps to minimize adverse effects on individual members of the species are required by conditions of the permit.
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) clarifications regarding the Spiny Softshell Turtle include:
  - Spiny Softshell Turtles fall under Federal Minister of the ECCC
  - SARA protections for Spiny Softshell only automatically apply on federal lands
  - Springbank Dam does not appear to be on or in vicinity of federal lands
  - The Federal Government generally looks first to Province to protect species at risk therefore the MNRF should be consulted regarding permit under ESA
- DFO specific comments include:
  - DFO works with all proponents to review their projects and, through mitigation and offsetting, minimize the serious harm to fish while still allowing progress and development.
  - Reinstating the dam would require a consideration of mitigation measures, and a large monitoring project.
  - DFO is mainly concerned about fish passage; the DFO has no concerns if the status of the dam on the waterway doesn't change (i.e. only repurpose the surface/walkway).
  - If the dam is to be removed, DFO sees it as a good thing for fish passage, but still needs to be given the opportunity to provide oversight on the removal process.
  - DFO & MNRF generally work concurrently but permit applications will be required for both since they are separate processes although some requirements overlap.

The input received from the government agencies was considered in the assessment of options in Stage 1 and in Stage 2; specifically, with respect to the ease of receiving permits and approvals, and the impacts on the natural environment.

## **8.1.2 Stage 2 Agency Consultation**

### **8.1.2.1 2018 Stage 2 Agency Advisory Committee Meetings**

Two additional meetings were held with the Agency Advisory Committee during Stage 2 of the One River EA to receive input, guidance, and feedback. The purpose of the first of these two meetings was to present the conclusion of Stage 1 of the EA, council's decision to support the staff recommendation of a free-flowing river, and to introduce the scope of Stage 2.

The Agency Advisory Committee discussed the Springbank Dam structural requirements and decommissioning alternatives. Multiple agencies stated that permitting would be required for both the partial and full dam decommissioning alternatives. The advisory committee recommended a change to the study area boundary at the dam to include additional natural heritage area. The committee and project team discussed and planned for further First Nations engagement for the remainder of the project.

The purpose of the second meeting was to update the Agency Advisory Committee on the progress of the project, present details for all of the three project component alternatives, evaluation framework, the preliminary preferred alternative for each component, and offer an opportunity for agency representatives to provide feedback before taking the preliminary preferred alternatives to the public. Agency representative input was considered and incorporated in the Stage 2 decision-making process. All meeting material from both Stage 2 meetings including the presentations, meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available in Appendix B-2.

### **8.1.2.2 Notice of Completion**

Following the distribution of the Notice of Completion (located in Appendix B-11), the project team received detailed review comments from the MNR, MCTS, and MEC. These agencies expanded on construction monitoring and best management practices in the Springbank Dam, Forks of the Thames, and River Management Plan study areas. The project team's response to these comments are noted in Appendix B-11.

## **8.2 Pop-up Events**

Pop-ups were held during targeted local events and festivals to raise awareness of the One River EA project. The City of London set up booths and provided background materials on the One River EA at many of the local events in London during the summer. Pop-up engagement events were hosted six different times during stage 1 of the One River EA at the following locations:

- 1) July 23, 2017 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Inspiration Fest, Wortley Village
- 2) August 3, 2017 11:00 am – 6:00 pm: Rib Fest, Victoria Park
- 3) August 10, 2017 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm: River Forks Park
- 4) August 11, 2017 7:00 am – 3:00 pm: Springbank Park
- 5) August 12, 2017 8:00 am – 3:00 pm: Farmers Market at Western Fair Grounds
- 6) August 19, 2017 11:00 am – 3:00 pm: London Tree Fest, Harris Park

At each Pop-up event, the project team (which included staff from Lura Consulting and/or the City of London) set up a booth that included:

- A project banner and signage
- A large map of the study area
- Informational handouts (attached in Appendix B-3)
- Surveys
- Some pop-ups included a small fishing activity for children to play as their parents/guardians filled out surveys
- Thames River buttons and One River stickers (as handouts)

Pop-up engagement event goals were to raise awareness for the One River Master Plan EA and to direct members of the public to the project website for project information and complete a survey. Staff engaged participants in conversations about the One River EA and would either ask participants to complete a paper survey or give them an informational handout encouraging them to fill out an survey online at their convenience.

A survey was developed to collect information about London Residents' current use of the Thames River and their ideas for the future of the river. The survey asked respondents both multiple choice and open-ended questions about how they use the river, how they would like to use the river, and what changes they would like to see, if any, in or around the river. The survey was available online at the project website

and in paper format at Pop-up events. A copy of the survey questions and a summary of the Pop-up events can be found in Appendix B-3.

The Pop-Up Events were also used as an initial method to collect information to add interested parties to the project mailing list. The project mailing list can be seen in Appendix B-4.

### **8.3 Stakeholder Meetings**

During the implementation of Stage 1, nine meetings were held between the City and Stakeholder groups with their comments incorporated into the feedback received on the One River EA. The following meetings were held at London City Hall with the stakeholder groups:

- 1) Nature London – September 29, 2017
- 2) Kensington Village Association – September 1, 2017
- 3) Thames River Keepers – September 1, 2017
- 4) Thames River Rally – September 19, 2017
- 5) Friends of the Coves – September 21, 2017
- 6) Thames River Anglers Association – August 25, 2017
- 7) Thames River Paddling Routes Project – August 25, 2017
- 8) London Canoe Club – August 29, 2017
- 9) London Rowing Club – August 29, 2017

### **8.4 Public Information Centers**

Three separate Public Information Centers (PICs) were hosted by the project team throughout the project. These events were held at publicly accessible venues throughout the City of London. The PICs were open house format without a set agenda or presentation with City staff and the consulting team were available for questions and comments. PIC attendees were invited to sign in and view the presentation boards with information updating the public on project activities. After viewing the presentation boards and discussing questions or concerns with the project team, attendees were then invited to fill out a survey providing their feedback. This survey provided the project team feedback on the project as it progressed as well as feedback on of the reception of the public consultation and engagement program.

Additional public comments were captured through online survey participation or direct correspondence with the project team. A compiled list of public comments for the project is available in Appendix B-5.

#### **8.4.1 Notices**

Prior to hosting a PIC, formal notices were published in local newspapers to inform the public and other interested parties of the event. Notices were also issued at the commencement of Stage 1 and the commencement of Stage 2 of the One River EA. The details of each notice are below:

- A formal notice of commencement of the EA process was published in local newspaper, *The Londoner* on July 20 and July 27, 2017. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix B-1.
- A formal notice of PIC #1 was posted on the City’s website on September 12, 2017, sent to stakeholders and First Nations, and published in the local newspaper, *The Londoner*, on September 21, 2017. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix B-6.
- A notice of public participation meeting was published on the City’s website prior to the Civics and Public Works Committee’s meeting. This notice notifies the public of the One River EA Stage 1 report that will be on the Civics and Public Works Committee’s January 9, 2018 agenda. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix B-1.

- A formal notice announcing the commencement of Stage 2 of the One River EA and PIC #2 was published in *The Londoner* on May 3 and May 10, 2018. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix B-7.
- A formal notice announcing PIC #3 was published in *The Londoner* on August 30, 2018 and September 6, 2018 and in *London Free Press* on August 25, 2018. A copy of the notice can be found in Appendix B-8.

#### 8.4.2 Public Information Centre #1

PIC #1 was held as two events on separate dates (October 18 and October 19, 2017), providing more opportunity for members of the public to attend. The October 18, 2017 event was held at the Central Branch of the London Public Library (251 Dundas Street) from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The October 19, 2017 event was held at Goodwill Industries (255 Horton street) in London from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. The purpose of PIC #1 was to introduce the project, present the alternatives for the future role of the Springbank Dam, and present the Stage 1 evaluation criteria that will be applied to identify the preferred option.

Over 100 people attended each session (with 102 officially signing in for the first and 103 officially signing in for the second). The PIC presentation boards are available in Appendix B-6. Attendees at the PIC were provided with a survey with eight questions to provide their feedback. A total of 164 survey forms were received over the two PIC event sessions. The survey questions, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are documented in the PIC #1 Summary available in Appendix B-6.

The public, stakeholders, interest groups, and First Nations representatives were also invited to provide feedback and input on the One River EA through correspondence and emails with the project team. These are also included in the PIC #1 summary. A total of 104 pieces of correspondence and/or emails were received regarding Phase 1 of the EA.

Feedback received at the PIC indicated that the presentation of the One River EA process and material was clear, and that the majority of participants were in favor of the Decommissioning of Springbank Dam. Figure 8-1 and Figure 8-2 illustrate selected survey responses.

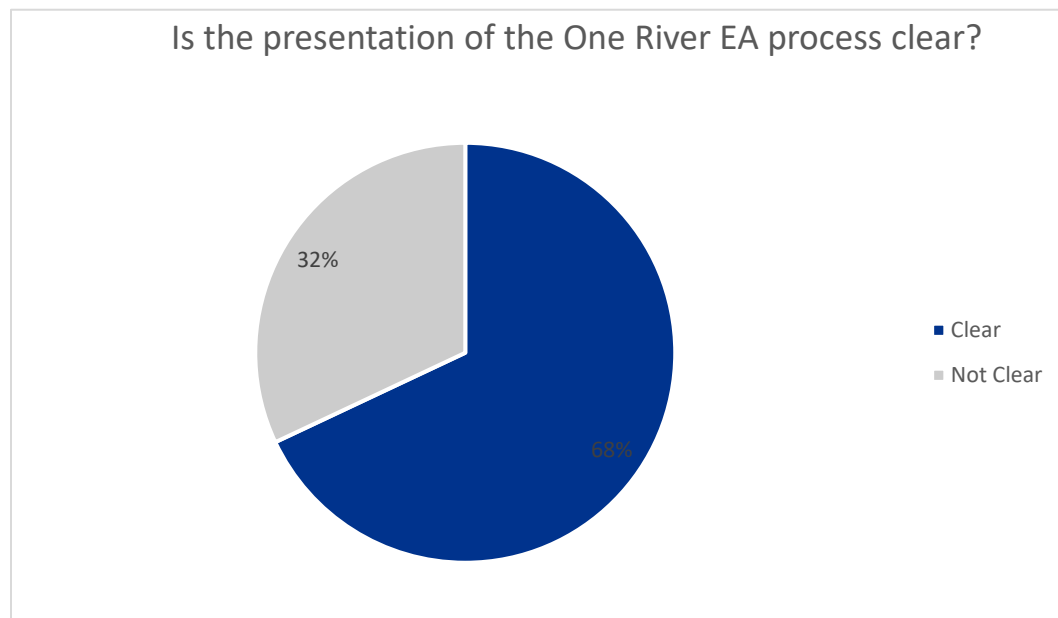
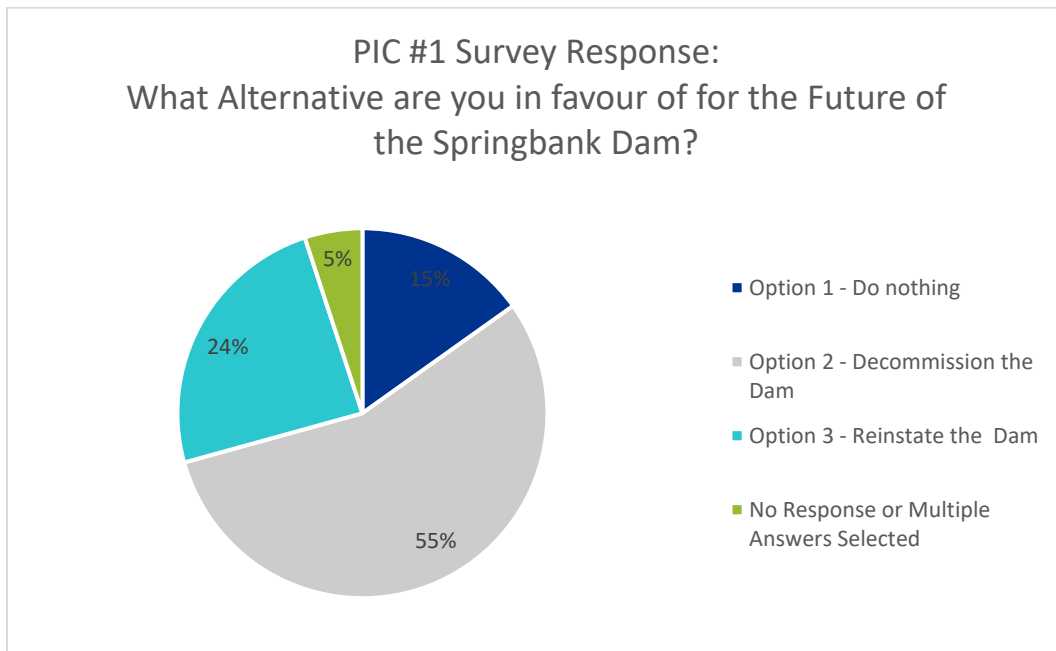


Figure 8-1. PIC #1 Survey Response: Is the presentation of the One River EA process clear?



**Figure 8-2. PIC #1 Survey Response: What option are you in favour of for the future of the Springbank Dam?**

**8.4.3 Public Information Centre #2**

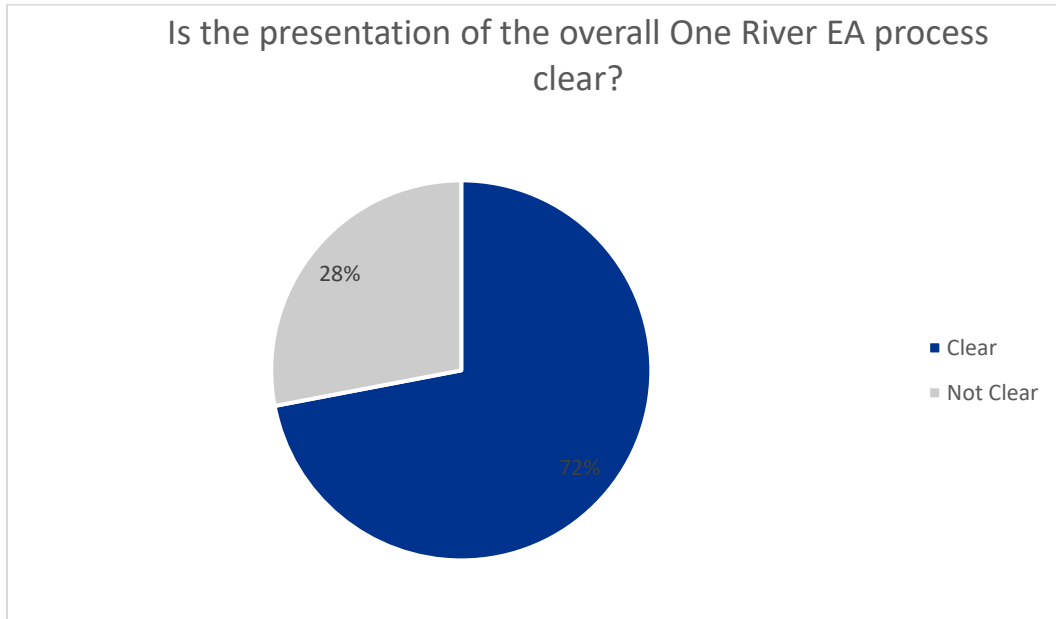
PIC #2 was hosted on June 6, 2018 at Museum London (421 Ridout Street)) from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The purpose of PIC #2 was to present the outcomes of Stage 1, introduce Stage 2, present the alternatives being considered for the Stage 2 components, and receive feedback from attendees.

Approximately 80 people attended PIC #2. Presentation boards along with video presentations of the concept alternatives were presented during the PIC. The PIC #2 presentation boards are available in Appendix B-7. Attendees at the PIC were provided with a survey form with 14 questions to provide their feedback. A total of 44 paper survey forms were received at PIC #2. The survey questions, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are documented in the PIC #2 Summary available in Appendix B-7.

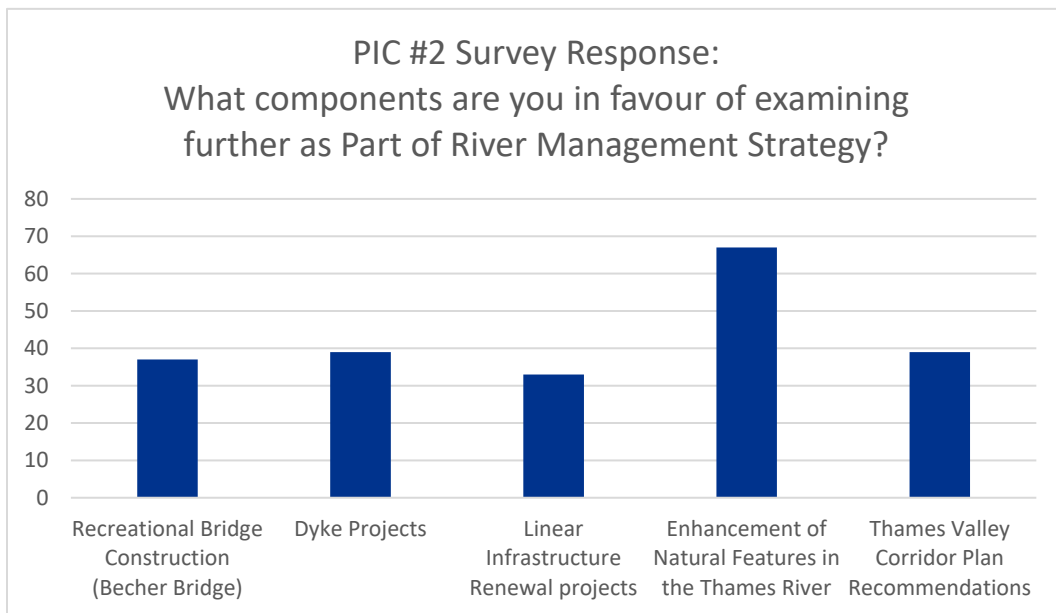
The public, stakeholders, interest groups, and First Nations representatives were also invited to provide feedback and input on the One River EA through online surveys and emails with the project team. The online survey and comment form was completed by 69 people, with three additional people providing feedback through email. The survey form, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are available in Appendix B-7.

Feedback received at the PIC indicated that the presentation of the One River EA process and material was clear (Figure 8-3). For the River Management Plan, respondents indicated they were most in favor of further investigation in the enhancement of natural features in the Thames River, among other items to be included in the River Management Plan (Figure 8-4).



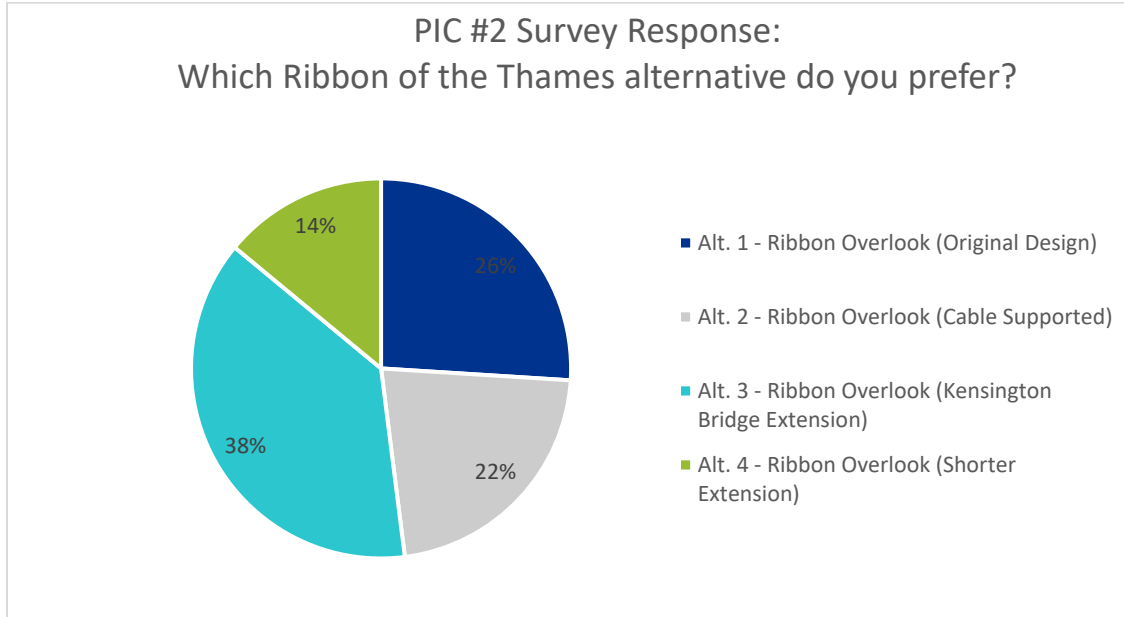


**Figure 8-3. PIC #2 Survey Response - Is the presentation of the overall One River EA process Clear?**

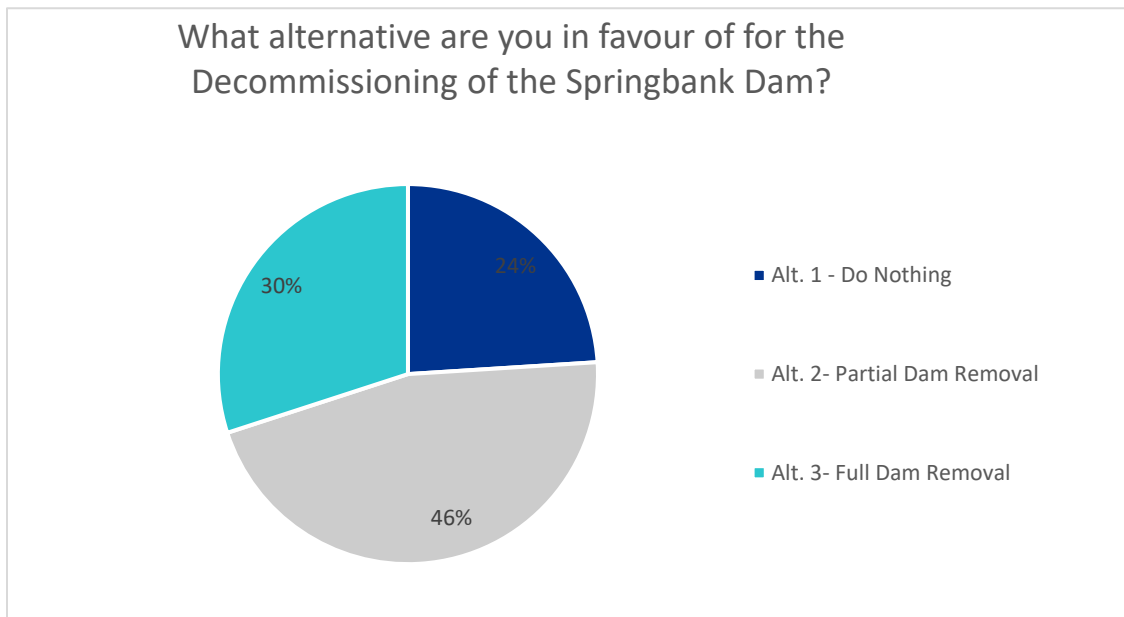


**Figure 8-4. PIC #2 Survey Response – What components are you in favour of examining further as part of the River Management Strategy?**

Feedback received at PIC #2 regarding respondents' preference for the Ribbon of the Thames was mixed, with 38 percent preferring a Kensington Bridge Extension being the most common answer (see Figure B-5). Participants preferred alternative for the decommissioning of the Springbank Dam was partial Dam Removal, with a survey response of 46 percent in favor of this alternative (See Figure B-6).



**Figure 8-5. PIC #2 Survey Response – Which Ribbon of the Thames alternative do you prefer?**



**Figure 8-6. PIC #2 Survey Response: What alternative are you in favour of for the Decommissioning of the Springbank Dam?**

**8.4.4 Public Information Centre #3**

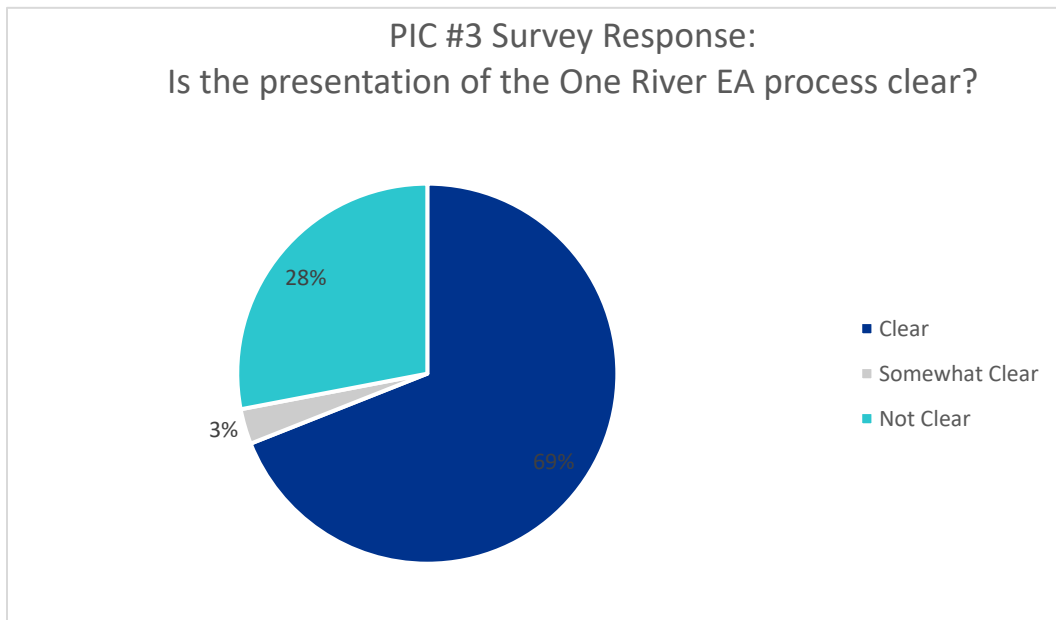
PIC #3 was hosted on October 3, 2018 at the Central Branch of the London Public Library (251 Dundas Street) from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The purpose of PIC #3 was to present the preferred alternatives for the Springbank Dam, Forks of the Thames, and the River Management Plan and to solicit feedback from stakeholders.

In total, 92 people attended PIC #3. Presentation boards along with video presentations of the conceptual design of the preferred alternatives were on display during the PIC. The PIC presentation boards are

available in Appendix B-8. Attendees at the PIC were provided with a survey form with 15 questions to provide their feedback. A total of 31 paper survey forms were received at PIC #3. The survey questions, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are documented in the PIC #3 Summary available in Appendix B-8.

The public, stakeholders, interest groups, and First Nations representatives were also invited to provide feedback and input on the One River EA through online surveys and emails with the project team. The online survey and comment form was completed by 43 people, with one additional person providing feedback through email. The survey form, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are available in Appendix B-8.

Feedback received at the PIC indicated that the presentation of the One River EA process and material was clear (Figure 8-7).



**Figure 8-7. PIC #3 Survey Response- Is the presentation of the One River EA process clear?**

Most participants agreed with the preliminary preferred alternative selected for each project component with 68 percent, 62 percent, and 66 percent agreeing with the Partial Removal Alternative, Suspended Walkway with Softscape Terracing Alternative, and Strategic Access and Use in the River Corridor respectively (see Figure 8-8 through Figure 8-10).

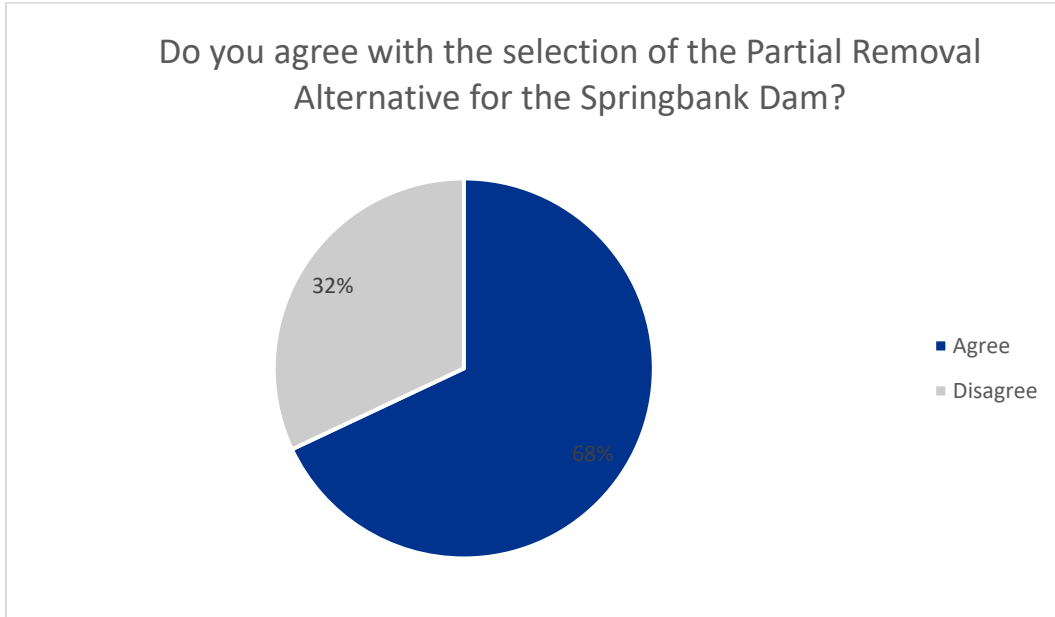


Figure 8-8. PIC #3 Survey Response – Do you agree with the selection of the Partial Removal Alternative for the Springbank Dam?

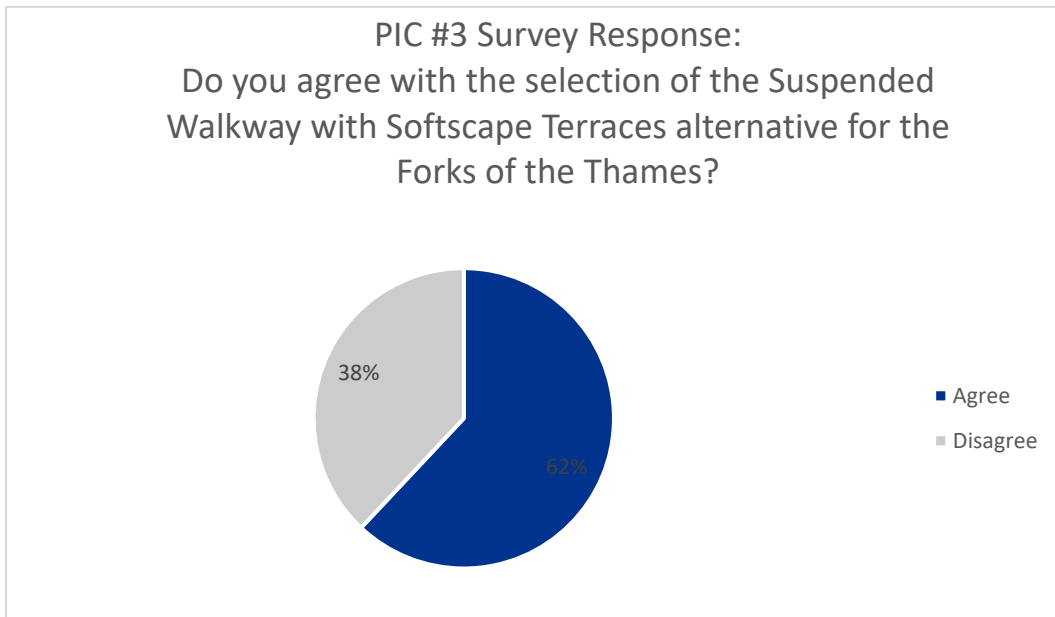
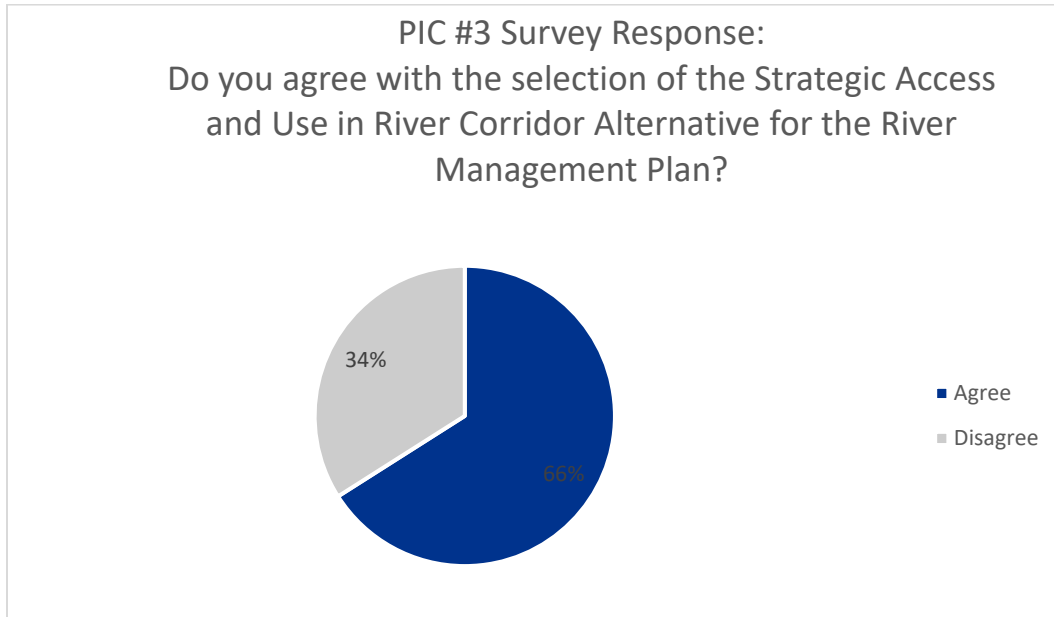


Figure 8-9. PIC #3 Survey Response – Do you agree with the selection of the suspended walkway with softscape terraces alternative for the Forks of the Thames?



**Figure 8-10. PIC #3 Survey Response – Do you agree with the selection of the Strategic Access and Use in River Corridor Alternative for the River Management Plan?**

## 8.5 First Nations Engagement

First Nations engagement is critical to the success of the One River EA. The perspectives and stories of First Nations with respect to their history, knowledge and identity through Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, as it relates to the Thames River, are important contributions to the One River EA. First Nations peoples have a unique perspective and relationship with the lands and waters within the watershed that include assertions of Aboriginal title, Treaty rights and Aboriginal rights. First Nations have expressed concern about actions they perceive may influence title claims, as well as health and economic well-being through impacts to drinking water, hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism. Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee-Delaware and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation rely on the Thames River as an indirect source of drinking water, sustenance in the way of fish, gathering and harvesting of ceremonial and medicinal plants and recreation. The watershed is an important hunting ground and is essential to archival and oral traditions, history, knowledge and identity.

Several First Nations communities expressed interest in the One River EA, and engagement that was initiated in Stage 1 of the EA continued during Stage 2. The project team contacted the London area First Nations and provincial Metis organizations through mail and email correspondence.

A First Nations Engagement Plan was prepared and implemented to facilitate meaningful engagement with First Nations (see Appendix B-9). The plan was amended as the project progressed and feedback was provided. Meeting format and content presented later in the project was influenced by feedback from earlier meetings.

One River pamphlets were sent to the D'amerind Friendship Centre (Indigenous Friendship Centre) in London to be placed visibly for visitors to see.

A representative from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation attended the first One River Agency Advisory Committee meeting alongside provincial and regional agency people. The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation representative presented their perspective of the Thames River and the Springbank Dam to other meeting attendees during the meeting.

A series of meetings were also held at Oneida First Nation and Chippewa of the Thames First Nation. These meetings were held in parallel with the PICs in the City of London, with the same material presented at the First Nations meeting as a Public Information Center in London. The office of the First Nations were contacted to coordinate details of the meeting, as well as notify community members.

These events were held at public institutions and were open house format with City staff and the consulting team available to respond to questions and comments. Meeting attendees were invited to sign in to the event and view the presentation boards for updates on project activities. After viewing the presentation boards and discussing questions and concerns with the project team, attendees were then invited to complete a survey providing their feedback. The information provided through the survey the project team feedback on the progression of the project as well as the reception of the communication materials.

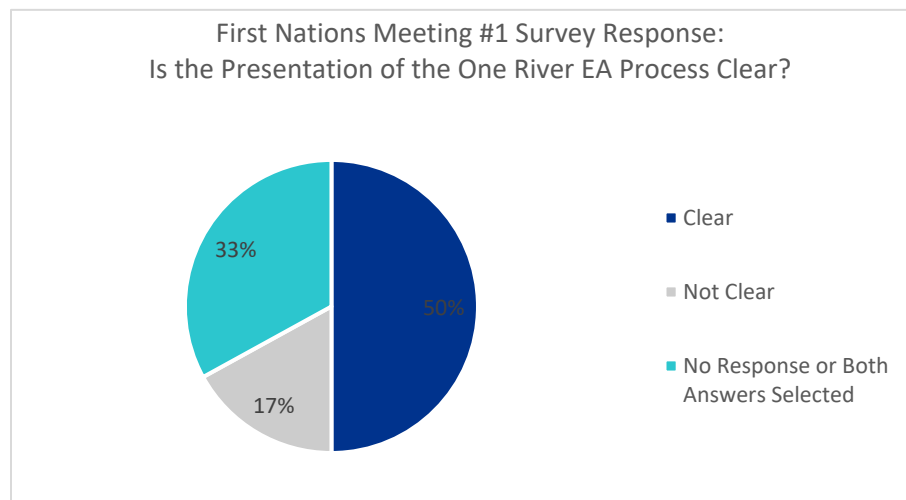
**8.5.1 First Nations Meeting #1**

First Nations Meeting #1 was hosted on December 7, 2017 at the Antler River Senior Centre (20723 Muncey Road) at the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. The purpose of First Nations Meeting #1 was to introduce the project, present the alternatives for the future role of the Springbank Dam, and present the Stage 1 evaluation criteria that will be applied to identify the preferred alternative.

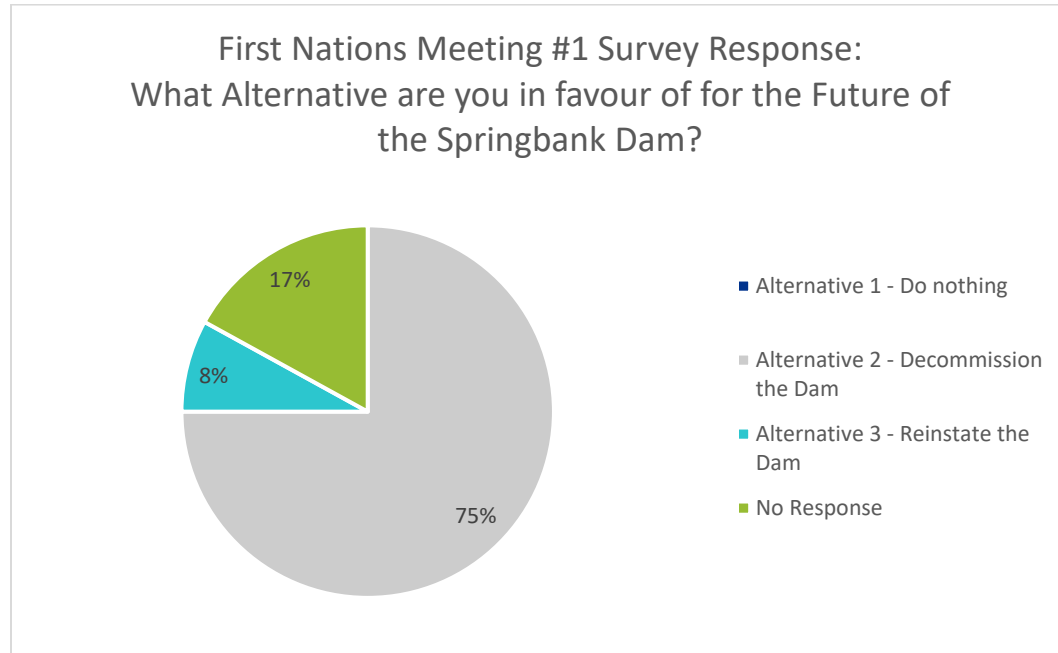
Approximately 16 members of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation and one member of the Oneida Nation of the Thames River First Nation attended. The presentation boards shown at the meeting were identical to those used in PIC #1 and are available in Appendix B-9.

The project team members, including staff from Jacobs, Lura Consulting and the City of London, were available to answer any questions participants had about the project. Participants were asked to provide their feedback by completing a survey. Twelve surveys were received regarding Phase 1 of the EA. The survey questions, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are available in Appendix B-9.

Feedback received indicated that the presentation of the One River EA process and material was clear, and that most participants were in favor of the decommissioning of Springbank Dam option. See Figure 8-11 and Figure 8-12 for further details. The attendees express interest in learning about other projects the City was working on to improve the water quality of the Thames River at the next PIC, even if not directly related to the One River EA.



**Figure 8-11. First Nations Meeting #1 Survey Response - Is the Presentation of the One River EA Process Clear?**



**Figure 8-12. First Nations Meeting #1 Survey Response - What Alternative are you in favour of for the Future of the Springbank Dam?**

### 8.5.2 First Nations Meeting #2

First Nations Meeting #2 was held on June 11, 2018 at the Oneida Community Centre (2017 Ballpark Road) at the Oneida First Nation. The purpose of First Nations Meeting #2 was to present the outcomes of Stage 1, introduce Stage 2, present the alternatives being considered for the Stage 2 components, and receive feedback from members of attendees.

In total, 16 First Nations community members attended. The presentation boards shown at the meeting were identical to those used in PIC #2 and are available in Appendix B-7.

The project team, including staff from Jacobs, Lura Consulting and the City of London, were available to respond to questions participants had about the project. Participants were asked to provide their feedback by filling in survey comment forms, and two comment forms were received regarding Phase 1 of the EA. The survey questions, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are available in Appendix B-7.

One respondent indicated that the presentation of the One River Master plan was clear, while the other indicated that it was not clear, suggesting improved clarity on the role of Oneida of the Thames and how their input will be included in the process.

When asked about priorities for the River Management Plan, both respondents suggested examining “Thames Valley Corridor Plan Recommendations” and one respondent suggested examining “Enhancement of Natural Features in the Thames River” further as part of the River Management Plan.

When asked about their preferred alternative for the Ribbon of the Thames, one respondent preferred Alternative 2, Ribbon Overlook (cable supported) while the other respondent preferred Alternative 3, Ribbon Overlook (extension from Kensington Bridge).

When asked about their preferred alternative for the Decommissioning of the Springbank Dam, both respondents selected Alternative 2 – Partial Dam Removal as their preferred alternative.

### **8.5.3 First Nations Meeting #3**

First Nations Meeting #3 was held on October 17, 2018 at the Antler River Senior Centre (20723 Muncey Road) at the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. The purpose of First Nations Meeting #3 was to present the preferred alternatives for the Springbank Dam, Forks of the Thames, and the River Management Plan and to solicit feedback from stakeholders.

In total, 9 First Nations community members attended. The presentation boards shown at the meeting were identical to those used in PIC #3 and are available in Appendix B-8.

The project team, including staff from Jacobs, Lura Consulting and the City of London, were available to answer any questions participants had about the project. Participants were asked to provide their feedback by filling in survey comment forms, and four comment forms were received regarding Phase 1 of the EA. The survey questions, a summary of responses, and the individual survey forms are available in Appendix B-8.

One respondent indicated that the presentation of the One River Master plan was clear, while the other indicated that it was not clear, as there was no information provided on species of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife that would be impacted.

All four respondents support the selection of Partial Dam Removal as the preliminary preferred alternative for Decommissioning Springbank Dam, as well as the selection of Suspended Walkway with Softscape Terraces as the preliminary preferred alternative for the Forks of the Thames.

Two respondents support the selection of the Strategic Access and Use of the River Corridor as the preliminary preferred alternative for the River Management Plan. One respondent did not support this selection as they felt more information on hydrology and plant life was needed before making this decision.

## **8.6 Webpage**

The project website was updated throughout the duration of the project and was a central source for all public project documentation. Project notices, PIC presentation boards, surveys, relevant council and committee reports, project reports and other project information was made available as the project progressed. The link below is the project website, hosted through Get Involved London, a website for residents and other interested parties to learn about and participate in City projects and initiatives.

**Getinvolved.london.ca/OneRiver:**

<https://getinvolved.london.ca/OneRiver/upcoming-events>

One River EA events were also posted on the City events calendar on the City website, available at the link below:

**London.ca Events Calendar:**

<https://www.london.ca/calendar/Pages/One-River-Public-Information-Centre.aspx>

## **8.7 Social Media**

Social Media, specifically Twitter and Facebook, was used by the project team to raise awareness for the project within the community. Posts were made to notify the public about the commencement of the project, the locations and times of the pop-up engagement events and PICs, and other project milestones.



## **8.8 Traditional Media**

Local news media coverage was used to raise awareness of the One River Master Plan EA, advertise PICs, and direct the public to the project website to learn more about the project and complete surveys. Local coverage included CTV News London and AM980 News (CFPL AM), *The London Free Press*, and *The Londoner*. Relevant media publications pertaining to the project and the Thames River in London are shown in Appendix B-10.