Meander Belt Assessment

PURPOSE:

This document provides guidance for the preparation of a Meander Belt Assessment, which may be required for the submission of an application under the *Planning Act*. Meander Belt Assessments shall follow the requirements referenced in this document.

A Meander Belt Assessment provides information required for a development planning application where development is proposed adjacent to a watercourse and the width of the associated meander belt and meander belt allowance needs to be determined. The assessment is used to establish the width of a meander belt and meander belt allowance, where applicable.

A Meander Belt is an area of land in which a watercourse moves or is likely to move over a period of time. A Meander Belt allowance is the setback that keeps development from being affected by river and stream meandering. This area represents the erosion hazard for unconfined watercourses.

PREPARED BY:

The Meander Belt Assessment must be prepared by a consultant registered as a Professional Engineer (P. Eng.) or Professional Geoscientist in the province of Ontario. The consultant must affix their stamp and seal and specifically identify the engineer who prepared the work. The consultant is expected to be a qualified consultant experienced in geomorphology.

CONTENTS:

Meander Belt Assessments shall utilize the standards established by the regulating Conservation Authority for identifying meander belt width and meander belt allowance, where applicable.

Meander Belt Assessment reports shall include:

- Supporting field data;
- Analysis and discussion on the methodology applied;
- Supporting calculations regarding determination of the meander belt width;
- Plan to scale showing the meander belt and meander belt allowance together with components used to determine the meander belt width (watercourse, meander belt axis, etc., where applicable); and,
- GIS Shape files to support regulatory mapping upgrades as applicable.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Hamilton Conservation Authority Planning & Regulation Policies and Guidelines: PlanRegPolicyGuidewAppendices.pdf (conservationhamilton.ca)

Conservation Halton Policies and Guidelines:

Policies and Guidelines - Conservation Halton

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Policy Document:

NPCA_Policy_Document_-_Nov_18_2022_Office_Consolidation.pdf

Grand River Conservation Authority Policies for the Administration of the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation: https://www.grandriver.ca/media/ytefxqx1/grca-compliance-policies_procedures_2009-_aoda-2024.pdf

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

The Conservation Authority with regulatory authority over the watercourse for which the Meander Belt Assessment is being completed, namely;

- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Conservation Halton

- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Grand River Conservation Authority

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