

October 14, 2021

Scott Taylor
Manager of Planning Services
Grey County

Dear Scott Taylor:

Re: Species at Risk Letter for the proposed Chapman's Facility in the Urban Expansion Lands.

Palmer is pleased to provide this Species at Risk (SAR) letter for the lands subject to an urban boundary expansion located directly north of the existing Chapman's facility (herein the "Study Area") (**Map A**). The proposed urban boundary expansion is approximately 6.6 ha in size. Palmer understands that a new building is being proposed in a small portion of the Study Area directly adjacent to the 2017 addition.

This letter has been prepared to satisfy the request by review agencies to assess for potential Species at Risk (SAR) within the proposed urban boundary expansion to ensure conformity with the *Endangered Species Act (ESA), 2007*.



Map A. Study Area depicting the proposed urban boundary expansion is outlined in Red.

1. Species at Risk Assessment

Palmer completed a background data review on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) database for SAR records for the general area. The findings included the potential occurrence of Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) within the Study Area. Both species are listed as Threatened and are afforded species and habitat protection under the *ESA*.

A field investigation was conducted on September 9, 2021. The field findings identified that a Dry-Moist Old Field Cultural Meadow (CUM1-1) vegetation community occupied the Study Area and adjacent lands to the north. The Study Area and adjacent lands to the north appear to currently be passively used as pasture for cattle. The meadow is occupied by a ratio of approximately 30% grasses and 70% forbs.

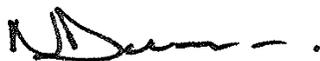
Palmer completed a habitat suitability screening for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark based on the vegetation community classification data and species composition recorded during the field investigation. Due to the large extent of Dry-Moist Old Field Cultural Meadow (CUM1-1) present within the Study Area and extending north on adjacent lands, the habitat is deemed suitable for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.

2. Next Steps

To confirm the presence/absence of Bobolink and/or Eastern Meadowlark within the Study Area, three breeding bird surveys should be completed between early May and early July 2022. However, due to timelines constraints associated with the proposed construction of the Chapman's facility within the proposed urban expansion lands, Palmer suggests assuming the presence of Bobolink/Eastern Meadowlark. As such, Palmer proposes to complete the submission of a Notice of Activity and a habitat management plan through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)'s Registry (Section 23.6 of the ESA's O. Reg. 242/08). The notice will be for the removal of habitat associated with the disturbance envelope for the proposed facility. The habitat management plan will describe the location, preparation, and management of the compensation habitat. The compensation habitat proposed will be equal or greater than the habitat being removed. The new or enhanced habitat will be in the same ecoregion as the area where the development will be carried out. The new or enhanced habitat must be monitored for 5 years and managed for 20 years.

Please contact Natalie Dunn at 416-908-6761 or Natalie.Dunn@pecg.ca if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours truly,



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Ecologist, ISA Certified Arborist



Rosalind Chaundy, M.Sc.
Senior Ecologist