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Bat Acoustic Survey Results Update to Species at Risk Report for the Parker Lands: Southwest Rapid Transit Project Stage 2

Dear Mr. Crowder:

To complete the information requirements for Clause 9 in the *Environment Act* Licence No. 3121 issued to the City of Winnipeg on December 18, 2014, for the construction and operation of the Southwest Rapid Transit Project Stage 2, this letter provides update information to the Parker Lands Species at Risk Report Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) submitted to you on July 5, 2016. The outstanding information required to complete the Species at Risk report information required in Clause 9 of the licence No. 3121 is regarding the potential use of tree snags/cavities as maternity roosts in the Parker Lands by bat Species as Risk (SAR).

To complete the SAR surveys as proposed to the City of Winnipeg (the City) in our April 6, 2016 Workplan, bat acoustic surveys were conducted at three potential bat SAR maternity roost tree snags/cavities within the Parker Lands study area during July 2016, using methods as proposed in the Workplan. One of the three candidate potential bat roost tree snags/cavities was determined to be occupied by a Red Squirrel shortly after the survey began; therefore, the survey at that tree was not completed and an alternate potential bat roost tree snag/cavity was selected for surveying. '*The Pre-Construction Species at Risk Survey Report: Parker Lands*' submitted to the City on July 5, 2016, provides the locations of the five potential bat roost tree snag/cavities from which the best candidate trees were selected for the bat acoustic surveys.

As indicated in the Workplan, each of the potential bat roost tree snags/cavities were surveyed for two evenings if no bats were recorded using the tree snag/cavity during the first evening survey. Acoustic surveys were conducted using the Echo Meter Touch apparatus concurrent with visual surveillance of the tree snag/cavity to monitor for evidence of bat exit/entry. Surveys were initiated 30 minutes before sunset and ended one hour after sunset.

Results of the acoustic surveys indicated that no bats were using the potential bat roost tree snags/cavities that were surveyed. **Table 1** lists the candidate potential bat roost tree snags/cavities that were surveyed and **Figure 1** illustrates the locations of the surveyed potential bat roost tree snags/cavities.

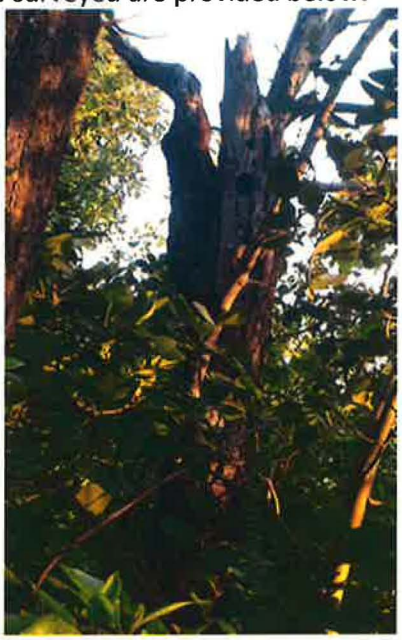
TABLE 1: POTENTIAL BAT ROOST TREE SNAGS/CAVITIES SURVEYED AT THE PARKER LANDS

Candidate Tree Snag/Cavity #	UTM Coordinates (NAD83 Zone 14)	Dates Surveyed (2016)	Results
Tree 2	631793E 5523298N	July 16 & 17	No bat SAR recorded/observed
Tree 4	631486E 5523143N	July 18 & 19	No bat SAR recorded/observed
Tree 5	632226E 5523601N	July 21	Cavity occupied by Red Squirrel: another candidate tree cavity/snag (Tree 3) was selected for surveying
Tree 3	631670E 5523234N	July 22 & 24	No bat SAR recorded/observed

FIGURE 1: LOCATIONS OF SURVEYED POTENTIAL BAT ROOST TREE SNAGS/CAVITIES AT THE PARKER LANDS

Photographs of the tree snags/cavities that were surveyed are provided below:

TREE 2



TREE 3

TREE 4

TREE 5 (OCCUPIED BY RED SQUIRREL)

Although no bats were recorded/observed exiting or entering the tree snags/cavities, two calls of a Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*; not a SAR bat) were recorded on the Echo Meter Touch apparatus during the survey conducted on the evening of July 16, at Tree 2, and two calls of an Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis;* not a SAR bat) were recorded on the Echo Meter Touch apparatus during the survey conducted on the evening of July 22, at Tree 3.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Although no SAR bats were recorded at the best potential tree stags/cavities found in the Parker Lands Study Area, there is evidence of bat occurrence at the Parker Lands area due to the detection of two non-SAR bats, the Hoary Bat and the Eastern Red Bat, which are migratory tree-roosting bats. The wetland meadows and cattail ponds within the Parker Lands area produce insects that are a food source for bat species occurring in Manitoba. Therefore, it is possible that various bat species including SAR bat may forage over the Parker Lands during spring and summer. This survey suggests that the few larger tree snags/cavities that occur within the Study Area are not suitable SAR bat maturity roosts. Therefore, should the removal of these trees with snags/cavities be required to accommodate construction of the Southwest Rapid Transitway Project, no impacts to SAR bats are expected. As indicated in '*The Pre-Construction Species at Risk Survey Report: Parker Lands'*, clearing of vegetation, including trees with snags/cavities that may potentially be used by cavity-nesting migratory bird species, should not occur within the breeding bird nesting season window (mid-April through to the end of August) to avoid contravening the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Sincerely,

DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED

Marlene Gifford, M.Sc, P. Biol., R.P. Bio.
Biologist

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cc: Taran Peters, Partner, Dillon
David Krahn, Partner, Dillon
Dennis Heinrichs, Partner, Dillon
Our file: 16-3611