

Lasby, Mary

Subject: Email - Communcation - Stewart Coles - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundry - CK 4205-40
Attachments: CPAWS-SK - SPC-Planning Development Community Services - written submisson to agenda Item 7.2.3 - Feb 2023.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 4:46 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communcation - Stewart Coles - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundry - CK 4205-40

--- Replies to this email will go to scoles@cpaws.org ---

Submitted on Friday, February 3, 2023 - 16:44

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Thursday, February 02, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Stewart

Last Name: Coles

Email: scoles@cpaws.org

Address: 201 226 20th Street West

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7M 0W9

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Saskatchewan Chapter

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.3 Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement [PDCS2023-0207]

Comments:

See attached written comments.

Attachments:

- [CPAWS-SK - SPC-Planning Development Community Services - written submission to agenda Item 7.2.3 - Feb 2023.pdf](#)182.29 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No



Suite 201, 226 20th Street West, Saskatoon S7M 0W9
www.cpaws-sask.org

3rd February 2023

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Saskatchewan Chapter (CPAWS-SK) wishes to express, in writing, our support for the submission of the Swale Watchers ‘*Vision Statement*’ in respect of agenda item 7.2.3 ‘*Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement*’ of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, and Community Services. We also wish to express our support for the broader context of protection, restoration, and connectivity across this region of the city.

In reference to the ‘*Vision Statement*’, we support the comprehensive visual perspectives these maps provide. They highlight the need to manage this area effectively for conservation and lays a foundation by which the city can work towards a sustainable residential community, while ensuring protection, restoration and connectivity play a critical and central role.

Protecting, restoring, and connecting our most prized and fragile ecological and cultural landscapes is critical to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, creating resiliency (inc., providing ecological services, i.e., flood mitigation, cooling cities, sequestering and storing carbon, etc.), and to supporting and maintaining space for people to access the land for the betterment of their wellbeing and cultural needs.

The City of Saskatoon has an incredibly important and responsible role to play in effectively managing land for conservation – especially as we continue to witness biodiversity loss and species extinction at unprecedented levels globally – as do many other municipalities across Canada. The prospect of a National Urban Park in the region presents the ideal opportunity for the city to be part of the solution in halting and reversing biodiversity loss and using this designation process to support greater conservation measures across the city. The Meewasin Valley Authority has taken great strides over the decades to protect, restore, enhance, and manage many important areas of the city. With this greater opportunity and at such a time when action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss is critical, the city is well placed to take on this leadership role and show Canada and the world that protecting, restoring, and connecting urban ecosystems - like the Small and NE Swale - makes ecological, cultural, and economic sense.

Therefore, the decisions you attempt to make at this committee meeting on boundary endorsements for the Small and NE Swale complexes will undoubtedly pave the way for the level of commitment the city places on prioritizing ecological and cultural conservation in some of our most important landscapes. The reward for such leadership goes beyond the protection afforded such habitats and species. It goes towards inspiring future generations to learn about the value of protecting critical ecosystems and species, adding to the great work already entrenched in Meewasin’s mandate. It also provides access to nature in ways many urban citizens are not always afforded, with many of our province’s prized landscapes some distance from urban centres and out of reach for many. This is an

opportunity to ensure our important ecosystems remain connected, ecologically functional and, where possible, intact, accessible, and a source of rich and flourishing biodiversity.

Recent national polling¹ by CPAWS has shown that a strong majority of Canadians (over 80%) support further government commitments to protecting land and sea in Canada, coupled with 90% of Canadians believing protected areas play an important role in addressing climate change, help prevent biodiversity loss, support a healthy sustainable economy, and support human well-being.

The recent agreements made at the United Nations Biodiversity conference (COP15) further support our national polling findings adding a requirement to protect areas of ecological importance, and ensure these areas are well-connected, effectively managed and equitably governed. This was presented under *Goal A of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) stating, "The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050"*². The goals and targets of the agreement clearly present a comprehensive plan to protect and restore biodiversity.

We have welcomed the opportunity presented by this agenda item to discuss this important topic further and we hope this dialogue and all other submissions will ensure the best decision is made in the interests of ensuring the Small and NE Swale complexes and their associated and supporting ecosystems remain healthy, connected, and continue to support an abundance of biodiversity.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart Coles

Conservation Program Manager
CPAWS-Saskatchewan

¹ <https://cpaws.org/poll-shows-canadians-want-more-and-faster-government-action-on-land-and-ocean-protection/>

² <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022>