

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM NO. 5

Blackmud/Whitemud Creek Surface Water Management Group

Blackmud/Whitemud Creek Surface Water Management Study Concept Development



June 2017



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Executive Summary

This technical memo summarizes the concept development and stormwater management options developed by AE based on discussion and review of Technical Memorandum No. 4 with the Blackmud/Whitemud Surface Water Management Group. The basin model was used to simulate future flooding and hydraulic conditions related to erosion in Blackmud and Whitemud Creek with various stormwater release rates from the future development areas. These results were reviewed with the Group in a progress meeting on February 24, 2017. AE then developed a surface water management strategy to minimize and mitigate potential impacts of future development.

Localized flooding is expected to occur along the existing creeks during the design storm event with the three stormwater management release rates considered for future development (1.5, 3.0, and 5.0 L/s/ha).

Velocities and runoff volumes in the creeks will increase with development and will aggravate the on-going erosion issues in the Blackmud and Whitemud Creeks. The magnitude of this impact will depend somewhat on the release rate adopted for new development and can be minimized by adopting the lowest release rate that is reasonably practical. Continuing the existing standard for the City of Edmonton, 5.0 L/s/ha, could cause erosion rates to increase by double or more compared with the existing condition. Otherwise there is little difference in flood level or extent or the cost of stormwater management facilities (SWMFs) among the different release rates. However, adopting a release rate of 3.0 L/s/ha produces flows that are similar to the existing flows within most of the creeks except Irvine creek and LeBlanc Canal.

The City of Edmonton's design criteria have the effect of increasing the required storage volume in SWMFs by about 40%. AE recommends that the differences in design criteria be rationalized and that a uniform design criteria be adopted for the basin.

Based on the best information currently available it is concluded that climate change is unlikely to have a significant impact on storage volumes, release rates, and the basin drainage strategy.

Two alternative drainage concepts were developed for the 1:100 year design event with a release rate of 3.0 L/s/ha as agreed upon during discussions with the Group as follows:

- Constructing drainage parkways along Irvine Creek and Deer Creek to provide capacity and facilitate drainage of the adjacent lands which are otherwise too low to be drained with an underground drainage system (Figure 3-2).
- Constructing a network of outfall trunk sewers adjacent to the same stream channels to carry the releases from the connected stormwater management facilities to a downstream location where adequate channel capacity and depth are available (Figure 3-7).

The final concept plan might include a combination of the above concepts.



All proposed drainage works must be constructed in an environmentally sensitive manner. Further detailed analyses will be required to integrate existing wetlands into the urban fabric and to establish the appropriate water management strategy and water levels for existing and proposed wetlands. Cawes Lake should be preserved and provided with a defined outlet to manage lake levels for habitat enhancement and to prevent flooding of the adjacent lands. A regional wetland is proposed to replace the flood storage that would otherwise be lost with channelization of Irvine Creek. Existing floodplain areas should be preserved as Environmental Reserve and protected from further development.

More detailed floodplain modelling will be required during subsequent planning stages to define the extent of the floodplains and the design requirements for any channel improvements (drainage parkways) that might be adopted.

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1 Introduction

The Blackmud/Whitemud Surface Water Management Group (Group) retained Associated Engineering (AE) to complete a Surface Water Management Study. This study involved hydrologic, hydraulic, hydrogeologic and environmental analyses of the Blackmud and Whitemud Creek basins and assessment of stormwater management options to accommodate future development in the basin.

A series of Technical Memoranda (TM) was planned to be issued at key stages of the study to document the interim findings. These memoranda also meant form the basis for discussions and deliberations with the Group.

A Blackmud/Whitemud basin model was developed and simulated for existing conditions. The model development and results were previously discussed in TM No. 4 Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modelling.

This technical memo summarizes the concept development and stormwater management options developed by AE based on discussion and review of TM No. 4 with the Group. The basin model was used to simulate future flooding and hydraulic conditions related to erosion in Blackmud and Whitemud Creek with various stormwater release rates from the future development areas. These results were reviewed with the Group in a progress meeting on February 24, 2017. AE then developed a surface water management strategy to minimize and mitigate potential impacts of future development.

In Workshop #3 on December 16, 2016 the Group agreed that the Capital Region Board (CRB) Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan (2016) would be used as the future development boundary. Figure 1-1 presents the existing and planned development areas, overlaid on a map of the basin.





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