

For Information

DATE: May 7, 2012

REPORT TITLE: **TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITY #4 - IMPROVE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Public Works

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update on the progress and plans for Term of Council Priority #4 – Improve Storm Water Management.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Term of Council Priority #4 – Improve Storm Water Management is a complex initiative due to the varied mandates of the stakeholder groups and the need to reach consensus on how the achievement of this Council priority will be accomplished and what the priorities are.
- The inaugural workshop was held on March 27, 2012 with all stakeholders in attendance.
- Six draft Strategic Issues and Objectives (SIO) were developed and identified by all agencies as the highest priorities with potential opportunity to identify some quick wins.
- Completing the data gap analysis as identified previously has been deferred until more discussion can take place.
- Agreement was attained by all attendees to continue with the process and participate in the next workshop on May 31, 2012.

DISCUSSION**Background**

As part of Council's desire to reaffirm Peel's Strategic Plan to ensure that it continues to align with the current environment and concerns of Peel's residents and businesses, Council conducted several workshops in the winter of 2011 to ensure the Strategic plan reflected feedback received from residents during their recent election campaign which also included for some Councilors the impact to residents from the recent severe flooding events that had occurred. As a result of this effort, Council identified 24 Term of Council Priorities (TOCP) for staff to focus on during this term of Council. Within the 24 priorities, Number 4 – Improve Storm Water Management was identified, with an outcome "Reduce the citizen risks associated with flooding and address broader environmental impacts".

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Improving storm water management is a compelling issue for the Region, local municipalities and the conservation agencies. There are a number of issues and opportunities associated with improving storm water management as follows:

- Seek opportunities proactively to reduce the number of basement flooding occurrences and desire to reduce associated risks
- Explore opportunities to improve ability to protect existing flood vulnerable properties and communities
- Impact of Climate Change into enabling incorporation of impacts into storm water management strategy, design and maintenance of infrastructure
- Evaluating the benefits of moving toward a more harmonized design standard between the municipalities
- Development or updating of guidelines to improve development infrastructure consistency, including Low Impact Development concepts
- Ensure ongoing protection of species habitat
- Recognize, plan and develop/amend policies to assist in addressing the impacts of changes in the flood plain limits
- Seek ways to address funding source shortfalls that limit ability to address storm water asset renewal and asset management objectives
- Explore opportunities to improve the ability to easily share data between agencies
- Explore and identify data gaps, and recommend action plan to close gaps to improve ability to make informed decision making
- Identify opportunities to improve risk management
- Ensure due diligence over the operating and maintenance of the piped system and storm water ponds

This initiative poses significant challenges as it requires extensive collaboration and has individual involvement from all the Area Municipalities as well as the Conservation Authorities as they are responsible for the majority of the piped storm water networks and watersheds respectively. However, all parties are concerned about the potential impacts of climate change, ongoing development, financial constraints and have recognized that there is a need to address the storm water issue collectively. This has been in discussion in various venues and at different staff levels for a number of months with no clear mandate or direction. Developing a clear vision, mandate and objectives to address all of these various issues and opportunities will help to streamline and focus staff efforts to address this complex issue.

As part of the TOCP #4, Council identified actions for 2011-2014 as follows:

- 2011
 - Develop a Storm Water Management Framework with our municipalities and conservation authorities
 - Establish Targets
- 2012-2014
 - Support implementation of framework recommendations adopted by Council

a) 2011 Actions

Once the TOCP's were approved and rolled out, staff began scoping a work plan and project framework to achieve the TOCP desired outcomes. These plans were presented to the Executive Management Team (EMT) over the summer of 2011 and continued to be fine tuned over 2011.

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CURRENT SITUATION

In the first quarter of 2012, a follow up presentation was made by Regional staff to EMT on the status of the TOCP's, while staff was simultaneously trying to find a workable date to host the kick-off meeting and workshop with all of the stakeholders. The inaugural workshop took place on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 and all of the stakeholders were in attendance including City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Town of Caledon, Toronto Region, Halton Region and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities, Regional Wastewater and Transportation staff.

The workshop was very productive and there was extensive discussion on many issues. One of the key outcomes was reaching consensus on the identification of six very draft *Strategic Issues and Objectives (SIO)*. The draft Strategic Issues have been identified as:

- How do we educate/communicate the importance and priority of Storm Water Management to Council, Public and others?
- How do we develop an asset management strategy that includes current and future needs?
- How do we identify potential sustainable funding sources?
- How do we create a common vision?
- How do we plan, integrate and adapt to climate change?
- How do we rationalize and harmonize our standards and guidelines?

These were felt by the participants to be the most important issues currently being faced by all participants and that there were some opportunities perceived as potential "quick wins" and more discussion is required to further flesh out the SIO and the quick wins.

A follow-up workshop date has been identified for May 31, 2012 and all participants have agreed to continue to participate.

PROPOSED DIRECTION

The workshop allowed staff to engage in effective conversation and discussion about the issues from each agency's perspective, and although the mandates were different there were significant commonalities that helped focus the development of the draft *Strategic Issues and Objectives*.

The next steps for moving this TOCP forward that were identified include communicating the initiative back to staff at the respective agencies, developing the project's mandate, identifying roles and responsibilities, and developing a project charter and plan. This work will be initiated at the meeting to be held on May 31, 2012.

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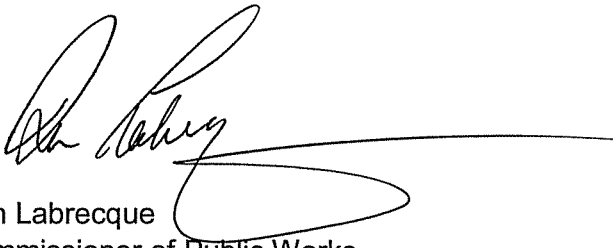
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Region of Peel can potentially defer some existing projects to make funds available for this project to facilitate leading the needed workshops or engage consulting services to advance some of the identified objectives. No further financial implications have been identified at this point in the project and staff are anticipating that all further resource requirements will be identified during the development of the project charter and work plan.

CONCLUSION

Improving storm water management is a complex issue due to the number of agencies involved with very different mandates and goals throughout the watershed. However, all parties are in agreement that progress cannot be attained in isolation and we must work collaboratively and in partnership to realize our collective goals. At this point in time, all parties have agreed to continue working together as a project plan is developed and resource requirements are identified.



Dan Labrecque
Commissioner of Public Works

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer



For further information regarding this report, please contact Linda Petelka, B. Sc. at extension 4455 or via email at linda.petelka@peelregion.ca.

Authored By: Linda Petelka

c. Legislative Services