



April 11, 2014

Rose Caterini, City Clerk
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Ms. Caterini and members of Council,

I'm writing on behalf of the partners of the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan to present the Draft Plan to you and to ask your council to endorse it.

The goals of the Water Management Plan are to improve water quality, secure water supplies, reduce flood damage potential, address the effects of climate change and reduce the Grand River's impact on Lake Erie.

The Plan is the product of a voluntary partnership of municipalities, provincial and federal agencies and First Nations. Their representatives sat on a Project Team and a Steering Committee to oversee the development of the plan during the past four years.

The Plan has been developed in a collaborative process focused on finding the "best value solutions" – the most effective and efficient ways to address the goals. The Plan aligns the existing projects and programs of the partners so they can work together to improve the management of water issues.

There are no legal or financial obligations for any partner to the Plan. Because it is a voluntary Plan, a spirit of co-operation and shared responsibility is critical to its success.

The Plan includes Recommendations and Action Items brought forward by the members of the Project Team on behalf of their organizations.

Most of the Action Items are things the Plan partners are already doing, or plan to do, that will implement the recommendations. Other Action Items are best practices which partners can implement voluntarily to address water issues.

Enclosed, please find copies of an eight-page Executive Summary, which provides an overview of the Plan and its recommendations. (The complete document can be seen at www.grandriver.ca)

Please distribute these to the members of council and staff.

We also ask that your council approve a motion:

- endorsing, in principle, the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan
- agreeing to continue to collaborate with other Plan partners to develop and voluntarily implement the best value solutions to water management issues in the Grand River watershed.

Our goal is to have municipal and First Nation endorsements by June 2014. We expect that the Plan will then be endorsed by the provincial and federal agencies soon after.

We would be happy to appear before council to provide additional information and to answer questions. To make arrangements please contact Ellen Fanning, Water Management Plan Assistant, at efanning@grandriver.ca or 519-621-2763, Ext. 2318.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Farwell".

Joe Farwell, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer
Grand River Conservation Authority
On behalf of the Water Management Plan Steering Committee