



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Water Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 7, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan (PW14071) - (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Dan McKinnon Director of Hamilton Water 905-546-2424, Extension 5941 Bert Posedowski Manager of Sustainable Initiatives 905-546-2424, Extension 3199
SUBMITTED BY:	Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan, attached as "Appendix A" to Report PW14071, be endorsed in principle, as a Plan of best practices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 14, 2014 under Communications, Item 5.3, Council recommended that this item be received and referred to the General Manager of Public Works for a report to the General Issues Committee.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 3

FINANCIAL - STAFFING - LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A
Staffing: N/A
Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Grand River Watershed is one of the largest in Ontario and a portion of this watershed (Fairchild Creek and Big Creek) is located within our municipal boundaries accounting for a significant portion of our rural lands. The Lynden municipal well owned

and operated by the City of Hamilton to supply drinking water to the community of Lynden is located within this watershed as well.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) conceived their first water management plan in the 1930's, updated over the years with the last version dating back to 1982. Based on a collaborative initiative within the last few years between various agencies (municipalities, ministries, conservation authority) a new Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan has been drafted (refer to "Appendix A").

The Plan is a voluntary, collaborative process with no financial or legal obligation associated with it. The objective of the plan is to promote the adoption of best practices and the implementation of projects and programs that provide the greatest benefits relative to the effort.

The Water Management Plan consists of two sections. The first part provides an overview of the issues within the watershed and the latest scientific information on those issues as well as identifying the goals of the plan, which include:

- Ensure sustainable water supplies for communities, economies and ecosystems;
- Improve water quality to improve river health and reduce the river's impact on Lake Erie;
- Reduce flood damage potential; and
- Increase resiliency to deal with climate change.

The second part is the Integrated Action Plan, a compilation of recommendations and action items. The recommendations identify the steps to be taken to reach the goals highlighted above while the action items are the tasks that partner agencies are already undertaking or plan to take to implement the recommendations.

Hamilton Water activities and mandate, even if not directly named in the report, at a municipal level aligns with a number of actions outlined in the plan such as ensuring sustainable (municipal and private) water supplies, proactively managing the water demand, reducing point source pollution by targeting wastewater effluent quality performance targets for phosphorus, reducing the non-point source pollution through appropriate stormwater management programs, outreach and education programs, etc.

Hamilton Water staff is supportive of this activity in the neighbouring Grand River Watershed. The principles identified in the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan are consistent with City of Hamilton Strategic Priority #1 "A Prosperous and Healthy Community" and more specifically under objective 1.6 enhance overall sustainability.

The recommendation contained in this report support the Mission Statement of the Public Works Business Plan "Innovate Now" - "Provide safe, strategic and environmentally conscious services that bring our communities to life".

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Not applicable

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

The principles outlined in the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan are best practices consistent with the goal of sustainable management of water resources and supports a common goal to maintain a healthy environment for our residents and visitors.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

An endorsement of this work is a voluntary action by the City of Hamilton that sends a positive signal to our neighbouring jurisdictions that the work being done is supported and is considered complementary to our own strategies. The endorsement of City Council sends a positive message and to do otherwise may suggest the City does not agree with the efforts being made by others.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" - Grand River Watershed - Water Management Plan