




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 23, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Proposed City of Hamilton Watershed Action Plan (PW19008(o)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Tim Crowley (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5063
SUBMITTED BY:	Cari Vanderperk Director - Watershed Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

On November 27, 2019 and December 11, 2019, Council amended Item 8 of the November 20, 2019 General Issues Committee (Report 19-024) which outlined items related to the contamination of Chedoke Creek as a result of the discharge from the Main/King Combined Sewer Overflow tank. Motion Item (m) states that the City of Hamilton (City) recommit to the water quality objectives in the Remedial Action Plan process.

INFORMATION

Many years of work and investment have been put into reducing point source contamination into Hamilton Harbour and by the end of 2022, the majority of this work will have been implemented. The main focus now shifts to non-point watershed sources as the primary mitigation to reduce the impact to the harbor. In order to continue progress toward improved harbour conditions, a collaborative effort is required to plan, develop and execute watershed actions within the care and control of the City. Validation of any actions through the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HH RAP) process is also required to support the delisting of Hamilton Harbour as an Area of Concern (AOC).

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The City has been a participant in the HH RAP since its inception in 1985 and has been a key contributor for many point source projects that have been or will be implemented which include:

- Construction of nine (9) Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tanks over 30 years;
- Sewer lateral cross connection investigations and repairs;
- Implementation of tertiary treatment at the Dundas Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP);
- Primary treatment expansion at the Woodward WWTP;
- Construction of tertiary treatment at the Woodward WWTP;
- Real-time control of key wastewater collection system regulators;
- Decommissioning the Waterdown WWTP;
- Windermere Basin Restoration;
- Financial contribution to the Randle Reef Engineered Containment Facility; and,
- Implementation of the Surface Water Quality Program to better understand and mitigate City infrastructure impacts on receiving waters.

Departments at all levels of government as well as non-governmental organizations, academia, businesses, industry and the public continue to monitor the environmental health of Hamilton Harbour. Each agency has oversight and hands-on implementation of various actions identified within the HH RAP. All data gathered is presented within the HH RAP community annually through various committees and workshops, to understand the actions taken and to identify and target gaps accordingly.

In Ontario, the responsibilities for HH RAP progress and AOC remediations are shared by the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, also known as COA. The local HH RAP office tracks environmental conditions, activities and outcomes, and reports on the status of each of the 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) within the Hamilton Harbour AOC with the goal of ultimately shifting the status of each BUI from Impaired to Not Impaired. Once that happens, Hamilton Harbour moves from an Area of Concern to an Area of Concern in Recovery. Hamilton Harbour monitoring will continue for many years while the AOC is in Recovery, before delisting can occur. The current status of each AOC was published in October 2021 by Environment and Climate Change Canada titled Restoring the Great Lakes Areas of Concern and is attached as Appendix "A" to Report PW19008(o).

In order to continue to meet the expectations for an improved aquatic environment, address community expectations, and continue to improve the City's image for effective environmental stewardship, the City has assembled a consortium of agencies, under a Stakeholder Liaison Committee (SLC). The SLC will develop the City of Hamilton Watershed Action Plan (CHWAP) and working together this group of agencies will help

to advance City specific non-point watershed actions which have the greatest influence on improving harbour conditions.

In 2016, a set of recommendations was developed through a collaborative HH RAP process to identify contributions of contamination in urban and rural Hamilton. These recommendations, as well as others, are considered a starting point for the SLC. As such, the SLC will act as a technical working group of the already established HH RAP Watershed Advisory Group (WAG). A graphic representing the reporting structure and how this SLC fits into the greater HH RAP Secretariat is attached as Appendix "B" to Report PW19008(o).

SLC membership is structured to provide a balance of perspectives, skills sets, knowledge, and expertise and may include, but is not limited to, the representation shown below. Guests will also be invited to participate in meetings by providing insight, submitting findings and offering additional support depending on agenda items.

SLC Working Group

- City of Hamilton
 - Public Works
 - Hamilton Water
 - Environmental Services
 - Transportation Operations & Maintenance
 - Planning & Economic Development
 - Sustainable Communities
 - Heritage and Urban Design
 - Growth Management
 - Healthy & Safe Communities
 - Recreation
 - Healthy Environments
 - Indigenous Relations
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Conservation Halton

The SLC will update the WAG committee regarding the development of the CHWAP during each WAG meeting. As a result, member agencies from WAG, as listed below, will provide insight, recommendations and additional support to the SLC.

- Bay Area Restoration Council
- City of Hamilton
- City of Burlington

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- Conservation Halton
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Environment Hamilton
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- The Regional Municipality of Halton

In addition to the agencies above, the SLC will also engage with the following consultation and engagement partners throughout the development of the CHWAP.

- Indigenous Nations and First Peoples
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Grand River Conservation Authority
- McMaster University
- Redeemer College University
- Green Venture
- Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The SLC will sit for three (3) scheduled meetings each year for an estimated two (2) years. Initially the committee will work to finalize the draft Terms of Reference attached as Appendix “C” to Report PW10998(o), along with a communications plan. Once complete, the focus will then turn to potential watershed improvements including but not limited to capital projects, policy changes and operating/maintenance program modifications.

The final deliverable of the CHWAP is a capital implementation strategy developed in accordance with City and Provincial guidelines, policies and regulations that outline a 5-10-year capital budget plan and financing strategy targeted for the 2024 Rates Budget Report. At that time discussions will take place in order to determine if there are future works being planned that would be suitable for the continuation of the SLC or another committee similar in nature.

Updates and communication to City Senior Leadership and Council will be accomplished as part of the SLC and City staff will identify a frequency and method after some strategy is established in discussion with the SLC members.

Hamilton Harbour represents one (1) of the largest natural features in the community that should be safe and accessible to all residents and addressing the remaining non-

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point watershed issues of contamination will further change the status of health, safety and image within the City of Hamilton.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PW19008(o) – Restoring the Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Appendix "B" to Report PW19008(o) – Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan
Secretariat

Appendix "C" to Report PW19008(o) – Draft Stakeholder Liaison Committee Terms of
Reference