



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Engineering Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Engineering Services

**Date to Council:** February 14, 2023

**Report Number:** PWES-2023-05

**Subject:** Request to Consider Engineer's Report – Gouin Drain

---

### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** the Drainage Report and Specifications for the Gouin Drain (Drain) as prepared by Mark Hernandez, P.Eng., of Dillon Consulting Limited, dated January 20, 2023 (Drainage Report) **be received**;

**And that** consideration **be given** to the first and second readings of a provisional by-law to adopt the Drainage Report in accordance with Section 42 of the Drainage Act (Act);

**And further that** notice **be given** to all affected landowners of the Court of Revision to be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5:00 pm in accordance with Section 46(1) of the Act, subject to the adoption of the provisional by-law.

### Background

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the background and other information to assist Council in giving consideration to the Drainage Report in accordance with the Act.

On November 14, 2017 Council accepted the recommendation by the Drainage Superintendent under Public Works & Engineering Services [Report No. 52/17](#) and passed resolution (Motion: RCM-402/17) as follows:

- (i) Make an examination of drainage area as submitted by the Drainage Superintendent for the Town of Tecumseh in the "Notice of Request for Drain Improvement" dated September 15, 2017; and
- (ii) To prepare a Drainage Report for the Gouin Drain in accordance with Section 78 of the *Drainage Act*, including provisions for future maintenance of the Drain.

On-site meetings were held on February 8, 2018, April 6, 2018 and January 22, 2020. Summaries of these meetings are included in Schedule 'A-1', Schedule 'A-2' and Schedule 'A-3' of the Drainage Report.

The Town received a draft report dated March 25, 2022, for discussion at a Public Information Centre (PIC). Invitations were sent to landowners and a PIC was held virtually on Thursday, April 28, 2022, to discuss the content of the draft report.

On January 20, 2023, Mark Hernandez, P.Eng., filed a report dated January 20, 2023 for the repair and improvement to the Drain in accordance with Section 41 of the Act. On January 30, 2023, invitations were sent to all affected landowners and agencies that the Public Council Meeting to consider the Engineer's Report would be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

The Drainage Report provides detailed information of the existing conditions based on the Engineer's examination as well as recommendations for the repair and improvement of the drain. The report also provides for the cleanout of accumulated silt and debris, replacement of existing bridges and enclosures and future replacement specifications for remaining bridges and enclosures.

## Comments

The sections of the Act referenced within this report are included in Schedule A which is attached to this Council Report as Attachment 3.

## Consideration by Council

Subject to the discretion of Council, the Drainage Report may be:

- a. Referred back to the Drainage Engineer for reconsideration if it appears that there are, or may be errors in the report or for any other reason the report should be reconsidered; or
- b. Provisionally approve by giving first and second readings to a Provisional By-law.

Subject to the discussions that take place at the Public Council Meeting to consider the report, and if no issues are raised that would warrant the report being referred back to the engineer, Administration recommends giving the first and second readings of a Provisional By-law to adopt the Drainage Report.

Following provisional adoption of the By-law, a meeting of the Court of Revision shall be scheduled to allow any affected owner of land assessed for the drainage works to appeal their assessed costs subject to the following:

- a. Any land or road has been assessed too high or too low; or
- b. Any land or road that should have been assessed has not been assessed; or
- c. Due consideration has not been given as to type of land use.

## **Regulatory Approvals**

Regulatory Approvals have been reviewed for the Gouin Drain and consist of:

- 1) Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) – *Conservation Authorities Act*
  - a. A permit from ERCA will be required prior to construction.
- 2) Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) – *Fisheries Act*
  - a. A self-assessment has been completed and determined that this project does not require a formal review by DFO and the Drain should not contain any aquatic species at risk or critical habitat.
- 3) Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP) – *Endangered Species Act*
  - a. The Town's Species-At-Risk Mitigation Plan continues to comply with the *Endangered Species Act*. The Town and Contractor will gather information on encountered species and/or mitigation plans implemented prior to and throughout construction.

## **Consultations**

Financial Services  
Dillon Consulting Limited

## **Financial Implications**

The Town of Tecumseh lands have been assessed a total of \$111,001, \$57,170 for Benefit and Outlet Liability for works involving 141.09 acres (57.10 hectares) of the roads and lands and \$53,831 for Special Benefit Liability for works on Shawnee Road and Gouin Street that are encompassing the area as shown on page 1 of 21 in the Overall Watershed Plan view.

Other than costs to administer the project, the cost of constructing the project is 100% recoverable by affected lands including the Town's portion of land mentioned above and detailed in the Assessment Schedule included in the engineer's report dated January 20, 2023. The Town will utilize the Drain Lifecycle Reserve to pay for the Town's drainage assessment.

For assessments in excess of \$5,000, the Town offers landowners the option of paying the balance plus interest over a five (5) year period; the annual payments are added as a special charge on their taxes.

### Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

### Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Alessia Mussio, E.I.T.  
Drainage Superintendent

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.  
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm  
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1	Engineers Report Summary
2	Drainage Report dated June 16, 2022 by Mark Hernandez, P.Eng., of Dillon Consulting Limited
3	Schedule A – Drainage Act Excerpts