



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: May 9, 2023

Report Number: PWES-2023-34

Subject: Upper Little River Watershed Drainage and Master Plan
Class Environmental Assessment
Study Completion and Final Adoption

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the Upper Little River Watershed Drainage and Master Plan Class Environmental Assessment, **be adopted**.

Background

The Upper Little River Watershed is located in the southeast part of the City of Windsor and the west part of the Town of Tecumseh. Refer to the Site Location Plan (Attachment 1). The main branch of Little River originates south of Highway 401 and generally flows north through a well-defined system of municipal drains and channels towards the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair. The drainage area contributing to Upper Little River upstream of the E.C. Row Expressway is approximately 45 km².

The City of Windsor and Town of Tecumseh together with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) commenced this watershed study to document the existing conditions of the Upper Little River Watershed and to recommend stormwater management measures to mitigate potential negative impacts as development occurs over time.

While this Study was initiated in 2004, there were delays associated with various studies and projects that superseded in priority and put this Study on hold. An overview of the timeline from commencement in 2004 to completion in 2022 was provided to Council at their Regular Council Meeting held November 22, 2022 in [Report PWES-2022-41](#).

Stantec Consulting Ltd. was retained as the lead consultant, in cooperation with Parrish Geomorphic Ltd., to complete the Upper Little River Watershed Drainage Master Plan under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process to determine a preferred approach to providing stormwater management control measures to support future development of the Sandwich South lands in the City of Windsor and a portion of the Tecumseh North and Oldcastle Hamlet Settlement Areas in the Town of Tecumseh that contribute to the Upper Little River.

The Project Team, consisting of representatives from the City of Windsor, The Town of Tecumseh, ERCA, and the Consultant Team, examined alternatives for stormwater management based on a combination of previous documentation and current information. In addition, two Public Open House Meetings (May 29, 2012, and October 22, 2012) were held to receive input on the alternative options investigated.

The Master Plan examined several alternatives for stormwater management and identified a preferred option based on an evaluation of alternatives and stakeholder input. The preferred alternative, Alternative 6, provides for all stormwater management controls for developing lands to be implemented before outletting to the downstream watercourses. Each facility would be required to provide water quality, water quantity, and erosion controls on a standalone basis. In this alternative the stormwater management facilities are grouped into stormwater management corridors to promote natural linkages, recreational trails, and greenways. It is anticipated that stormwater management facilities would be designed and constructed as development proceeds. The study area will be developed by multiple landowners and the preferred alternative supports the ability of individual landowners to proceed independently while minimizing the total number of stormwater management facilities.

Advantages of the recommended solution included the following:

- **Staging Flexibility** – minimizes the number of facilities, while providing flexibility with respect to their staging and construction.
- **Stormwater Pumping** – fewer facilities and grouped locations, with one pump for multiple properties should minimize the number of pump stations.
- **Recreational Opportunities** – the potential exists to create new trail networks through the stormwater management corridors.

Details of the Master Plan process, from conceptual development of alternative stormwater management strategies through to the identification of recommended projects, are summarized in the Upper Little River Watershed Drainage and Master Plan which will be posted on the Town's [website](#) following Council's adoption.

Comments

In accordance with the Municipal Engineer's Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process, the Master Plan was filed on Public Record for a period of 30 days through the issuance of a Notice of Completion. The Notice of Completion was advertised on January 21, 2023 and February 8, 2023.

During the 30-day public review period the following concerns were received from agencies and the public:

1. January 23, 2023 from a Property Owner: Requested clarification on the impact of the Master Plan on the Sandwich South Master Servicing Plan.
2. March 6, 2023, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM): Requested revisions to the Master Plan to align with current legislation and terminology.
3. March 9, 2023, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP): Requested the submission dates in the Master Plan be revised to reflect the final Notice of Completion submission.
4. March 9, 2023, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN): Indicated that the COTTFN must review each of the Schedule B projects included in the Master Plan to determine the impacts as well as environmental conditions for each project.

Copies of all correspondence from these stakeholders (agencies and public), as well as the responses confirming how these comments were addressed, are appended to the Master Plan in Appendix C and are outlined in Attachment 2 of this report.

Accordingly, the Master Plan is considered approved under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process and may proceed to implementation.

Consultations

Development Services
City of Windsor
Essex Region Conservation Authority
Stantec Consulting Limited

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

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 checked="" 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:

Cheryl Curran, BES
Project Technician

Reviewed by:

John Henderson, P.Eng.
Manager Engineering Services

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP
Director Development Services

Reviewed by:

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

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Site Location Map
2	Stantec Consulting Limited Study Completion Letter and Summary of 30-Day Public Review Period Comments & Responses