



Meeting Date:	October 21, 2020
Contact:	Ivan Burton, Planner/EDO iburton@whitewaterregion.ca 613-646-2282, Ext. 124

Title:

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Places to Grow Funding Program

Recommendation:

That Council of the Township of Whitewater Region receive this report for information purposes as it relates to the approval of funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Places to Grow Funding Program.

Background:

The Township filed a funding application for the Place to Grow (Funding for Sectors) Environmental Stewardship Soil Health and Water Quality Program held by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in January 2020.

The application was filed for the Stormwater Assessment, Planning and Implementation of the Cobden Agriculture Area and local Provincially Significant Wetlands, including the establishment of mitigation measures (best management practices) and communication strategies (action plan) to better manage and implement future changes.

The Township partnered with the Muskrat Watershed Council and received letters of support from the Renfrew County Federation of Agriculture, Renfrew County Soil and Crop Improvement Association, National Farmers Union - Renfrew County and Ontario Federation of Agriculture (Renfrew County).

The Province announced that we were successful in our funding application to help pay for 50% (\$35,000) of the cost of the anticipated \$70,000 assessment. The Township had already earmarked \$35,000 of the MMAH efficiency funds from 2019 for the review of stormwater management of Cobden. This project will include the agricultural areas surrounding Muskrat Lake as well as the Cobden and Snake River Provincially Significant Wetlands.

Analysis:

The purpose of the project is to have an actionable plan for the purposes of implementing and funding decision support tools to reduce nutrient loss for agricultural producers and improved water quality of Muskrat Lake and the Cobden and Snake River Provincially Significant Wetlands.

The project will create partnerships amongst the local and regional agricultural, environmental, academic and governmental organisations as well as local agriculture and agri-food sector farmers. The project will gain a better understanding of the sources of nutrients/ phosphorus from Cobden area agricultural producers leading to water quality deterioration of Muskrat Lake and the Cobden and Snake River Provincially Significant Wetlands.

Based on the proven process, as utilized in the development of the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan, our Plan will comprise of four components:

- communication to quantify and demonstrate the sources of nutrients/ phosphorus in the project area,
- educational and awareness to assist in quantifying and demonstrating to local producers the loss of nutrients and their impacts
- actionable items, best management strategies, to reduce nutrient/ phosphorus loading within the local waterbodies; and
- marketing and engagement to support all levels of government and local producers to invest in improved water quality.

Financial Implications:

Based on the anticipated project cost of \$70,000, the Provincial funding will pay for 50% of the cost and the Township will fund its portion of the project with the MMAH Efficiency Funding.

Next Steps:

Issue and award the RFP.

Prepared by: Ivan Burton, Planner/EDO

Reviewed by: Sean Crozier, Treasurer/Deputy CAO

Approved by: Rob Tremblay, Chief Administrative Officer
