



Meeting Date:	July 07, 2021
Contact:	Ivan Burton, Planner/EDO iburton@whitewaterregion.ca 613-646-2282, Ext. 124

Title:

Stormwater Assessment, Planning and Implementation Project – Cobden Agricultural Area

Recommendation:

That Council of the Township of Whitewater Region receive this report for information purposes as it pertains to the Cobden Agricultural Area Stormwater Assessment.

Background:

In February 2021 Council awarded the preparation of the Stormwater Assessment, Planning and Implementation Project for the Cobden Agricultural Area to Hutchinson Environmental Services Limited. This award followed the funding announcement by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership: Places to Grow of the joint Township and Muskrat Watershed Council submission.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the project and an opportunity to comment on the Background Report. As noted in the executive summary of the Background Review (See Attachment No. 1), the background review was completed following five specific tasks:

1. Preliminary consultation with the agricultural community and environmental partners
2. Characterization of existing stormwater management
3. Identification of source areas of nutrient loss
4. Evaluation of Cobden and Snake River Provincially Significant Wetland functions in relation to stormwater management (SWM), and
5. Preliminary identification of priority areas for management.

Analysis:

The purpose of this project is to examine existing stormwater conditions and implement appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of nutrient loading on Muskrat Lake. This project also provides for an

opportunity to conduct public education and to develop partnerships with other agencies to improve water quality.

Based on the work conducted by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. and Jp2g Consultants Inc., priority areas have been identified with the following recommended actions (Refer to Figure 19, Pg. 44):

- Future projects should be focused on site SC-02 to reduce areas where nutrient loading is significant. Focus on this site will reduce nutrient concentrations of the Snake River PSW, Snake River and Muskrat Lake. (West of Highway 17 Between Cobden and Snake River).
- Previously flooded areas should be assessed in the future as flood events result in significant nutrient loading. The majority of the previously flooded areas are located between Snake River PSW and Muskrat Lake. (Flooding surrounding Snake River)
- The background assessment identifies that in the Muskrat Lake Riparian Lands there is a lack of riparian buffer between cropland and the shoreline of Muskrat Lake. Riparian buffer is needed to reduce runoff and soil erosion into waterways from land used for agriculture.

Strategic Plan Departmental Workplan:

This report supports the strategies of the 2020 - 2030 Township Strategic Plan and the 2021 Community Development Workplan with respect to:

- Proactively address water quality to protect the Township's water bodies and drinking water; and
- Minimize impacts of drainage, stormwater, flooding and climate change.

Engagement Consultation:

The Township with the support of Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. and Jp2g Consultants Inc. will progress into greater public and agency consultation as part of the second phase of this project. A contact list is noted on Appendix A of the Background Report.

Financial Implications:

The contribution agreement outlined the following funding sources:

- Partnership Funding \$35,000.00
- Corporation of the Township of Whitewater Region \$34,500.00
- Muskrat Watershed Council \$500.00

TOTAL \$70,000.00

The Township's contribution will be funded from reserves.

Next Steps:

Hutchinson Environmental Services Ltd. will continue to follow their submitted action workplan. This includes the promotion of BMPs to provide the greatest environmental and financial benefits with resources provided. Recommendations will also be provided on additional research and analysis to improve water quality.

The Township and Consultant will also progress the consultation phase with the public and agencies.

Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Background Review (June 10, 2021)

Prepared by: Ava Kelly, Watershed Outreach Summer Student (Muskrat Watershed Council)

Reviewed by: Ivan Burton, MCIP, RPP, Planner/ EDO
--

Reviewed by: Sean Crozier, Treasurer/Deputy CAO
--

Approved by: Robert Tremblay, Chief Administrative Officer
