



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of General Committee**

From: **Cynthia Fletcher**
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

Meeting Date: **June 3, 2019**

Subject: **Report IPSIM19-013**
Watershed Planning Study Project Initiation and Presentation

Purpose

A report for information purposes to advise Council of the City's initiative for a Watershed Planning Study, to present a brief overview of the project and outline the approach for broad community engagement.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report IPSIM19-013 dated June 3, 2019, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services, as follows:

That Report IPSIM19-013 and presentation on the Watershed Planning Study be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications as a result of this report.

Background

Policies contained in the **Growth Plan, Provincial Policy Statement** and legislated under the **Places to Grow Act** recommend municipalities to undertake watershed planning as a basis for identifying and protecting the water resource system and to inform land use, infrastructure planning and decision making.

The Watershed Plan will prepare the City for future expansion, intensification, and infrastructure decision-making in accordance with the requirements of the Growth Plan. The watershed plan will provide direction for the City's Official Plan, guide future secondary plans, and provide the overall framework for the protection and enhancement of the City's water resource system through day to day operations.

At its meeting on March 20, 2019, the Administrative Staff Committee in consideration of Report IPSIM19-009 awarded RFP P-31-18, the Watershed Planning Study. Aquafor Beech Limited, in association with LURA Consulting, Earthfx Incorporated and SGL Planning and Design will undertake the detailed study components required as part of the watershed planning process.

The watershed planning process involves preparing background information to characterize the watersheds, drafting a vision, including goals and objectives that are guided by science, engagement and consultation, conducting technical studies related to water quantity and water budgets, water quality assessments, natural hazards, climate change, natural systems, cumulative effects, and preparing land-use and management scenarios.

Throughout the watershed planning process, the City will employ a significant level of community and stakeholder participation. Various forms of engagement and consultation methods will be utilized to inform/educate, consult, involve, and collaborate with the public, stakeholders and agencies.

Engagement, and communication methods will include, but are not limited to:

- A Project Steering Committee consisting of City staff from various departments who lead projects or implement policy that may be impacted by a watershed plan. The staff committee will be responsible for the decisions made in the project.
- A Watershed Advisory Committee with members from our neighbouring municipalities, the County, First Nations, and Otonabee Conservation who have a shared interest in the watersheds. The goal of the Committee will be to collaborate, review, discuss, and share information related to the watershed planning process, with the intent of creating a mutually beneficial plan.
- A Technical Advisory Committee consisting of subject matter experts who live and work in the community. The goal of this committee will be to solicit input and feedback on the various technical aspects of the study, such as hydrology, climate change, natural hazards, water quality, and cumulative effects.

- Stakeholder workshops with broader community groups who may have a direct interest in the plan process and outcome. Key project stakeholders will also be consulted throughout the process through other forms of direct and indirect communication.
- Multiple opportunities for public input will also take place, beginning with a project launch in early June. Pop-up engagement events will also take place starting this summer at various community events and locations. Pop-ups are an opportunity to inform the general public about the watershed planning process and help identify elements for the study vision, objectives, issues, constraints and opportunities. Public engagement, including a community workshop, will also occur in later phases of the project to provide the public with opportunities to shape the draft watershed plan.
- Communication and engagement will also occur through online forums, such as the City's website and social media platforms. Online engagement will typically coincide with in-person events, giving an opportunity for the others who are not able to attend in-person events, to join in the conversation.
- A Council report and presentation is anticipated in the fall of 2019 to present the results of the watershed characterization and provide an overview of the communications and engagement activities to date. A final report and presentation are proposed early in 2021 to present the findings of the watershed plan and implementation plan, and an opportunity for Council to endorse the plan.
- Direct consultation will occur along a distinct path with Williams Treaty First Nation and other First Nations, as well as Métis having an interest in the watershed planning process. The precise direction of consultation and accommodation will be determined through conversations with individual First Nations and Métis. Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEC) into the watershed plan will also be determined in discussions with First Nations and Métis.

Through these efforts, the City's watershed plan will provide the foundational science to guide the City's policy and development/infrastructure standards that enhance and protect our water resources. All aspects of the plan will be guided by the engagement efforts thereby creating a final plan that will empower the public, stakeholders, first nations, governments and the City to share in the watershed stewardship efforts.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Fletcher
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

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