



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the General Committee**

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

**Meeting Date:** **September 3, 2019**

**Subject:** **Report IPSIM19-021**  
**Harper Park Subwatershed Management Study Budget Transfer**

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend a budget transfer for the Harper Park Subwatershed Management Study.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report IPSIM19-021 dated September 3, 2019, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services, as follows:

- a) That the 2018 Capital budget for the Harper Park Subwatershed Management Study as described in Report PLPD17-043 pre-commitment of 2018 Capital Budget: Natural Heritage Policy Update and Harper Park Plan, and further amended by Council at its meeting of October 2, 2017, be increased by \$287,500, plus HST, from \$112,500 to \$400,000, and
- b) That \$287,500 be transferred from the 2012 Capital Budget account 5-3.04 Rye Street Drainage Improvements and Resurfacing.

## Budget and Financial Implications

The total \$287,500 budget transfer can be accommodated from the 2012 Capital Budget account 5-3.04 Rye Street Drainage Improvements and Resurfacing. This account currently has an uncommitted balance of \$505,000.

The Rye Street Drainage Improvements and Resurfacing budget will need to be reviewed and adjusted during a future capital budget process. Staff are not able to initiate the Rye Street project until completion of the Webber and Rye Street Environmental Assessment and the Harper Park Subwatershed Management Study. As such, the Rye Street Drainage Improvements and Resurfacing project will not be initiated until 2021, at the earliest.

## Background

At the June 5, 2017 City Council meeting, in response to citizen and agency concerns with the Casino Development, Council passed the following resolution:

“That Council direct staff to bring forward a report outlining the scope and 2018 budget implications of a Harper Park Watershed Management Plan that would include a Harper Park Wetland Complex; and

That in conjunction with the study, staff also consider the potential uses of the employment lands in the vicinity of Harper Park.”

At the September 25, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff brought forward Report PLPD17-043 outlining the scope and budget implications of an update to the City’s Natural Heritage Official Plan Policies, including the completion of a Harper Park Plan that assesses the wetland complex, passive recreational opportunities, and potential use of employment lands. The staff recommendation was as follows:

“That \$225,000 be pre-committed in the 2018 Capital Budget to retain an environmental consultant to carry out an update to the City Natural Heritage Official Plan policies as part of the Official Plan update, which will include the completion of a Harper Park Management Plan; and

That Beacon Environmental be retained to complete the Natural Heritage Policy update and Harper Park Management Plan at a cost of \$200,000 plus HST of \$26,000.”

It was, however, the direction of Council that the completion of the Harper Park Management Plan follow a competitive procurement process and that a citizen and agency group, including members of the Casino Task Force, be consulted on the Terms of Reference for the Harper Park Management Plan. In final consideration of Report PLPD17-043, at the meeting of October 2, 2017, Council passed the following resolution:

- a) That \$225,000 be pre-committed in the 2018 Capital Budget to retain an environmental consultant to carry out an update to the City Natural Heritage Official Plan policies as part of the Official Plan update, which will include the completion of a Harper Park Management Plan;
- b) That Beacon Environmental be retained to complete the Natural Heritage Policy update at an approximate cost of \$112,500 to allow work to proceed as required for the Official Plan;

Council added items c) and d) as follows:

- c) That the Harper Park Subwatershed Management Study go out to RFP, at an approximate cost of \$112,500.
- d) That an ad hoc committee be struck to collaboratively develop the Terms of Reference and make recommendations to staff for the update of the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study RFP.

In 2018, the ad hoc committee was formed to create the recommended Terms of Reference for a detailed Subwatershed Study. The committee included citizens, members of the Harper Park Stewardship Association, Otonabee Conservation and City Staff.

As a result of citizen and First Nation community concerns related to development and construction in the Harper Park subwatershed, and the pending subwatershed study, the Webber and Rye Street Environmental Assessment was deferred until the completion of the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study.

Upon receiving the draft Terms of Reference, and in consideration of legislated requirements, as well as the various concerns and needs in the subwatershed, staff prepared a detailed scope of work for a comprehensive Harper Park Subwatershed Study.

The scope of work based on the input of the ad hoc committee to the terms of reference is significantly greater than originally envisioned when the budget for this study was established. Although the scope has changed, the additions are reasonable requests.

The subwatershed study is a high priority. Completion of the Webber and Rye Street EA, as well as various road work and maintenance activities are dependent on recommendations from the Subwatershed Plan.

### **Brief Description of Work**

The Harper Creek Subwatershed is an environmentally sensitive area, the subwatershed contains a provincially significant wetland, species at risk and a localized cold-water fish community, including a brook trout population. In 1997, the City, in partnership with Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, commissioned the completion of a Subwatershed Study (SWS) for Harper Creek. The Harper Creek SWS

served as the basis for stormwater management and development in the basin and informed the Lansdowne West Secondary/Harper Park/Peterborough Business Park Plan (Official Plan, Schedule M), which provided a blueprint for future development and environmental protection in this area of the City.

With increasing urbanization and planned infrastructure works on the periphery of the natural lands it is evident that an update to the 1997 SWS is required to inform future land use decisions and develop a management strategy for the protection and enhancement of the Harper Creek Subwatershed. The update will enable a new Secondary Plan for the subwatershed, inform ongoing and planned Environmental Assessments, and result in a recommended subwatershed management strategy.

The SWS will create and provide the following detailed information:

- a) Identification of the existing natural environment; including its location, extent, current status, significance, and sensitivity;
- b) Identification of environmentally sensitive areas and hazard lands, including constraints and opportunities;
- c) Identification of the environmental resource system, including a detailed assessment and listing of areas to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance;
- d) Identification of lands where development and infrastructure may be considered and determine how existing and future land uses can be developed compatibly with natural features;
- e) Undertake a cumulative impact assessment based on projected land-use scenarios and potential infrastructure expansions and develop a preferred alternative for use in a Secondary Plan;
- f) Provide direction, including guidelines for Best Management Practices (BMP) to implement the preferred land-use and infrastructure plan;
- g) Provide direction on future infrastructure needs from an environmental context and water management perspective;
- h) Prepare a Stormwater Management Plan for the existing subwatershed focused on managing and reducing existing impacts, impacts from infill/intensification, and required upgrades to support new development within the sub-watershed;
- i) Establish an implementation and management strategy and requirements for environmental system monitoring. This will include full costing, cost/benefit scenarios and required resources; and

- j) Provide all other water resources related information required for an updated Secondary Plan and all documentation required for the subwatershed plan in accordance with the Municipal Class EA Master Planning process

The subwatershed study will build upon the work being completed as part of the City's broader Watershed Planning Study. A subwatershed study is a significantly more refined assessment of the water resources and natural heritage features in an area, and provides detailed direction for infrastructure expansion, development, and rehabilitation and protection of the natural features.

Based on the scope of work proposed, staff have estimated the total consulting fees for this study to be approximately \$300,000, plus City project management and disbursement costs of \$50,000, and a contingency of \$50,000, for a total project cost of \$400,000. This estimate is consistent with other subwatershed studies awarded in the Province over the past five years.

### **Council Approval Required**

Under Part 9.2.1 b. of the Purchasing By-law 18-084, Council must approve a net budget transfer of greater than \$50,000.

### **Budget Adjustment Required**

The recommended budget transfer is outlined in Table 1.

<b>Budget Number</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Current Uncommitted Balance</b>	<b>Recommended Transfer</b>	<b>Balance after Transfer</b>
5-3.04	2012	\$505,000	- \$287,500	\$217,500
7-1.07	2018	\$112,500	+ \$287,500	\$400,000

### **Timelines**

This budget transfer will allow the study to go out to RFP in 2019, which is essential due to the limited seasonal monitoring and data collection windows. Further delay in the award and execution of this study is likely to push back the completion of other vital projects in the area.

## Summary

The transfer of budget from the 2012 Capital Budget account 5-3.04 Rye Street Drainage Improvements and Resurfacing to the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study will allow the project to proceed in 2019 and allow for the completion of a comprehensive subwatershed study, as recommended by staff. The budget for the Rye Street Drainage Improvements and Resurfacing will be reviewed through future budget approvals. This project will proceed post 2020 pending budget approval and upon completion of the Subwatershed Study and EA.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Fletcher  
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

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