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PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICIES FOR THE JURISDICTION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 23, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The policies (*see Attachments 1 and 2*) titled “Regional Jurisdiction – Water Infrastructure” and “Regional Jurisdiction – Wastewater Infrastructure” be adopted by Regional Council.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to Clerks of the nine local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Regional Council on comments received from local municipalities following earlier staff reports to the Transportation and Works Committee. The report recommends Council’s approval of the proposed policies defining Regional jurisdiction of water and wastewater infrastructure.

3. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of February 17, 2005, Council adopted Clause 1 of Report No. 2 of the Transportation and Works Committee which authorized staff to send revised draft policies on the Regional jurisdiction of water and wastewater infrastructure to the nine local municipalities for their comments and report back to Council once this was done.

Between March 2005 and January 2006, staff developed these policies through consultation with all local municipalities. During this period, meetings were coordinated with local municipalities during which the draft policies were reviewed. Comments and feedback were received and incorporated in the draft policies.

Regional Council at its meeting of April 27, 2006, adopted Clause 1 of Report No. 4 of the Transportation and Works Committee which presented the outcomes of this process. At the Transportation and Works Committee meeting of April 5, 2006, the above report was amended, directing staff to seek further input from the local municipalities.

This report summarizes comments received from the local municipalities and presents the final policies for approval by Council.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Regional Clerk circulated the report from the April 27, 2006 Council meeting to the Clerks of all nine local municipalities on April 28, 2006. Staff have also communicated with representatives of the local municipalities.

Comments and feedback were received from the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan. Aurora Town Council passed a resolution on May 16, 2006 recommending that the Region be informed the Town is in agreement with the proposed policies as detailed in the report from Regional Clerk.

In a letter dated May 31, 2006, the Town of East Gwillimbury indicated the report from the Regional Clerk addresses all issues that were discussed between the Town and Regional staff in preparation of the policies.

At the Town of Georgina Council Meeting of June 5, 2006, a staff report was received and adopted that concluded that the Town agrees, in principle, to the proposed policies. The report further indicated that the Town wishes to continue with a discussion with the Region regarding the servicing of the proposed Keswick Business Park. A new sewage pumping station is required to service the Keswick Business Park. Since the proposed policy does not automatically qualify a pumping station directly connected to a sewage treatment plant as a Regional facility, the eligibility of the future Keswick Business Park pumping station will be reviewed as part of the ongoing discussion with the Town.

At the City of Vaughan Council Meeting of June 12, 2006, a staff report was received and adopted that recommended the Region be informed that the City concurs with the final draft policies. At the Town of Richmond Hill Council Meeting of June 26, 2006, a staff report was received and adopted that concluded that the criteria for establishing sewer and water infrastructure are appropriate.

Local municipality staff have also confirmed by telephone and email that no objections or additional comments would be provided from the local municipalities of King, Markham, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications to either the Region or local municipalities. Infrastructure identified for transfer will be assessed and reported to the respective Council, as required by the proposed transfer of assets policy and procedure.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

These policies will assist in clarifying Regional jurisdiction and provide an equitable infrastructure framework for defining the jurisdiction by considering such aspects as population base and Regional/local municipal benefits.

7. CONCLUSION

The responsibility for constructing and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure is shared between the Region and the local municipalities. These policies are intended to further support and clarify how Regional infrastructure is defined so that the Regional system can continue to operate appropriately while providing equitable criteria for defining the Regional and local systems.

The nine local municipalities have been consulted and have actively participated in the creation of these policies, and it is therefore recommended that Regional Council endorse these policies.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)