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WATER AND WASTEWATER POLICY AND CRITERIA WORKING PAPER

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated August 26, 2008, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services and the Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward copies of the document titled “Working Paper - Policy and Criteria” (*Council Attachment 1*) to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

This report informs the Committee and Council on the Policy and Criteria Working Paper (*Council Attachment 1*). The paper documents the water and wastewater policies, responsibilities, jurisdictions and criteria for York Region Water & Wastewater systems to be used for the Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update.

3. BACKGROUND

Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update

In 2006 York Region commenced both the Transportation and Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update studies in the context of changes in growth and planning as a result of provincial initiatives. These provincial initiatives include the Province’s Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan, and new population and employment targets. The Policy and Criteria report is done under the umbrella of the scope of work for the Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update. It documents the policies, responsibilities and criteria for the Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update.

There are four background reports that were prepared within the Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update. They are:

1. Sustainability Strategy - Develops the framework for the water and wastewater sustainability strategy.
2. Unit Rates – Presents the projected water consumption rates and the wastewater generation rates.

3. Policy and Criteria Working Paper – Documents the water and wastewater policies, responsibilities, jurisdictions and criteria for York Region Water & Wastewater systems.
4. Baseline Report – Outlines the existing Regional water and wastewater systems; establishes the starting point in the assessment of water and wastewater systems to service the existing and projected development; and establishes the base condition for infrastructure for hydraulic models for both systems.

The Sustainability Strategy report was presented to Council on April 9, 2008. Unit Rates was brought to Council on June 11, 2008. The Baseline Report and Policy and Criteria items are now communicated to Council for information.

As part of the review, we have worked closely with Environmental Services staff to ensure the process and the final report are acceptable.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The intent of this working paper is to review and document existing water and wastewater policies, Regional responsibilities, and system criteria for consideration in the Master Plan update. During the Master Plan review process if the policies or criteria are considered no longer valid or out of date for the current situation then the appropriate modifications will be recommended.

For the purposes of this report, policies are considered to be documents which indicate the responsibilities of the Region with respect to water and wastewater servicing; criteria contain the parameters used to design the Regional system infrastructure components.

Through the Master Planning process the current Regional policies and jurisdiction requirements will be reviewed as the policies are applied. Recommendations beyond those stated in this report may arise as the policies are applied. Recommendations presented in the Working Paper and from the application of the policies will be incorporated into the final Master Plan. The Working Paper and any future recommendations will be presented to Regional Council for their consideration.

The Policy and Criteria Working Paper was developed from the information obtained in a variety of Regional documents as well as from Regional and local municipal staff and the consulting team for the Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update (Genivar and XCG).

The Regional policies concerning water and wastewater are in the current Regional Official Plan (ROP) 1996, in Section 6.7 Water and Sewer Strategies. The recommended policies in the Policy and Criteria report follow the principals of the policies outlined in the ROP. Regional responsibility regarding water and wastewater infrastructure is

established in the Municipal Act 2001, Clause 11 Spheres of Jurisdiction. Regional jurisdiction is established by the Region in consultation with the local municipalities. The previous Regional policies for the jurisdiction of water and wastewater infrastructure were adopted on September 21, 2006, from the Report No. 8 of Transportation and Works Committee, August 23, 2006. Full report will be posted on the York Region website.

14 Areas Impact Water and/or Wastewater Servicing Policy

There are 14 Policy Areas outlined in the Working Paper. Eight policies apply to both water and wastewater, four are specific to water infrastructure, and two to wastewater. The policies are outlined in Table 1.

The Water and Wastewater policies pertain to:

- Providing adequate water and sewage treatment capacity to the Urban Areas.
- Following development with suitable infrastructure.
- Adhering to the applicable legislation.
- Strategies and conservation plans, with a consideration for sustainable infrastructure.

Water and Wastewater Criteria are specific to Infrastructure components and type of servicing

The criteria are based on previous Master Plans and on the Council item adopted on September 21, 2006. The water system criteria consist of:

- Water demand rates.
- Water quality.
- Pressure zones.
- Water system storage.
- Oversizing.

Facilities criteria look at:

- Water treatment plants.
- Wellhouses.
- Pumping stations.
- Storage facilities.
- Watermains.

Wastewater system criteria are divided into separate criteria for YDSS and for small urban systems. They include:

- Dry weather flow generation.
- Wet weather flows.
- System performance analysis.

Facilities criteria listed are the same for the two systems.

Table 1
Recommended Water and Wastewater Policies

Policy Area	Policy Statement
General	To provide adequate water and sewage treatment capacity to the Urban Areas.
General	Development within and expansion to towns and villages will occur on the basis of full municipal water and wastewater treatment services where such facilities currently exist.
General	Continue to negotiate arrangements with other partners, public and/or private, for the provision of water and wastewater sewer service for the Region.
General	That long-term water supply and sewage treatment strategies will be prepared for adoption by Regional Council to coordinate the supplies of these services with the phased development of the regional structure.
General	The construction or expansion of partial services be prohibited in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area unless deemed necessary to address a serious health or environmental concern.
General	That water rates are generally based on full cost recovery of the enhancement, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation/replacement of the water and wastewater systems. (Subsequently Bill 175 (2002) requires Full Cost Recovery)
General	That primary components of the water and wastewater systems be oversized to provide flexibility to accommodate future changes in flow demand due to assumptions/criteria changes, flow diversion and system network modification.
General	Additional policies related to sustainable infrastructure be considered
Water	It is generally the Region's intent to supply major urbanized areas with water from the Great Lakes, thus freeing up groundwater resources for agricultural, rural and recreational uses and optimizing emergent flow into creeks, streams and rivers.
Water	Allocation, reallocation and phasing of water services will be completed in cooperation with the area municipalities as part of the community building process.
Water	Carefully monitor the Region's well water systems to ensure acceptable quality and quantity while not depleting the supply below the aquifer's sustainable level.
Water	To pursue, in cooperation with area municipalities, water conservation and demand reduction strategies designed to improve the efficiency of the Region's systems.
Wastewater	To investigate methods of improving capacity of stand-alone sewage treatment plants within the assimilation capacity of receiving streams, rivers and lakes.
Wastewater	To ensure the protection of source water for water supply systems restriction on the location and operation of private sewage systems, maintenance yards, and other potential source of contamination will be implemented by the Region under the Clean Water Act.

(Source: Table 2-1, Policy and Criteria)

Water and Wastewater Policy and Criteria report is done as part of the Master Plan Update

The water and wastewater Policy and Criteria Report provides a foundation for the current Water & Wastewater Master Plan Update. Servicing alternatives will be assessed

using this information and will be reported to Council in the fourth quarter of 2008 as part of the Preferred Alternative and Public Consultation Process report.

Relationship to Vision 2026

One of the goals set by Vision 2026 includes having Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture. In the action areas of this goal are: Complying with and maintaining high standards for drinking-water quality; and Encouraging water conservation. In addressing water and wastewater policies and criteria, this paper is one step in promoting these goals. This report is therefore consistent with the priorities previously set by Vision 2026.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report does not have any direct financial impacts to either the Region or the local municipalities. The cost of this study is covered under the budget for the Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Policy and Criteria report provides information on the Regional water and wastewater policies and criteria. While the jurisdictions are not affected, the local municipalities benefit from this report by having information on the Regional strategies on water and wastewater facilities.

7. CONCLUSION

The Region has documented the water and wastewater policies, responsibilities, jurisdictions and criteria. This report assists staff in assessing the current Regional water and wastewater systems and in planning for future systems.

For more information on this report, please contact Paul May, Director, Infrastructure Planning at (905) 830-4444, Ext. 5029.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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