
Subject: Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control and Wet Weather Management (WWM) Program – 2023 Funding Recommendations

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Recommendations

1. That staff **PREPARE** and **EXECUTE** the respective partnership funding agreements with the Local Area Municipalities for qualifying projects to reflect the terms and conditions set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of Report PDS 12-2023; and
2. That Local Area Municipalities **BE ADVISED** of the results of Regional funding support, as outlined in Appendix 1 of PDS 12-2023.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide background information for the 2023 LAM projects under the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control / Wet Weather Management (WWM) Program;
- The CSO Control Cost Share Program has been in place since 2007 and is intended to facilitate shared funding with the Local Area Municipalities (LAM) to help mitigate the impacts of wet weather events on the Region-wide sanitary system and the environment. As a result, the Region benefits from this program by gaining capacity at regionally owned trunks, sewage pump stations and wastewater treatment plants, which in return, could be used for growth without oversizing Regional infrastructure;
- Representatives of the CSO/WWM Working Group developed administrative procedures and criteria to support and evaluate project submissions by LAM in accordance with the guiding principles;
- The Region supports this approach and has included funding annually in its budget. For 2023, an amount of \$4,000,000 was budgeted in the Region's Wastewater Operating Budget;
- Twenty-nine (29) eligible projects were submitted by LAMs for 2023; however, the total requested funding is more than the approved program budget of \$4,000,000 by \$1,043,250 for 2023, demonstrating the high demand to address wet weather issues in sanitary collection systems.

Financial Considerations

A gross budget of \$4,000,000 has been approved as part of the 2023 Wastewater Operating Budget for the CSO Control Cost Share program. Funding for this program is partially provided through Development Charges (50%).

The 29 eligible projects considered for funding under the 2023 CSO Control Program totaled \$5,043,250. As the total requested amount is more than the approved program budget of \$4,000,000 by \$1,043,250 for 2023, six project applications will have to be declined for funding and one application will receive partial funding. Appendix 1 presents 22 municipal projects recommended for funding in full, one municipal project recommended for partial funding, and six unfunded projects.

Prior to awarding the 2023 amounts, the Region currently has \$11.4 million in outstanding commitments to 11 municipalities for approved but unspent CSO projects as per 2022 Year-End shown in Appendix 4.

Analysis

The CSO Control Cost Share program is intended to facilitate shared funding with LAM to help mitigate the impacts of wet weather events on the Region-wide sanitary system and the environment. These CSO projects help reduce potential basement flooding, overflows to the environment, and provide capacity for growth within existing infrastructure by removing excessive water entering the sanitary system. The Region benefits from this program by gaining capacity at regionally owned trunks, sewage pump stations and wastewater treatment plants, which in return, could be used for growth without oversizing Regional infrastructure. The CSO Control Working Group is made up of at least one LAM representative with urban servicing and is lead by Regional staff. The evaluation matrix is reviewed by the CSO Working Group for enhancements annually. Appendix 2 shows the distribution for the CSO Control Program funding options for project types.

Twenty-nine (29) applications were received from 11 LAMs. Three applications from Fort Erie, two from Grimsby, two from Lincoln, five from Niagara Falls, two from NOTL, two from Pelham, three from Port Colborne, one from St. Catharines, two from Thorold, six from Welland, and one from West Lincoln.

Regional staff reviewed and evaluated all 29 eligible projects and incorporated 21 of them into the final recommendation list presented in Appendix 1. Projects were awarded based on the program evaluation matrix following the CSO Control and Wet Weather Management Policy as approved by Council.

The requested funding for all eligible projects totaled \$5,043,250. The total requested funding is \$1,043,250 more than the 2023 approved budget of \$4,000,000.

Similar to other jurisdictions across Ontario, wet weather flows continue to negatively impact sanitary infrastructure resulting in potential basement flooding, overflows to the environment, and reduced capacity for future growth. The removal of wet weather flow and inflow and infiltration reduction is important work that needs on-going focus and support over the long term to be successful.

Alternatives Reviewed

No alternatives were reviewed as the approved budget was fully utilized.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This report supports the Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning priority in establishing objectives of Environmental Sustainability & Stewardship and Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure.

Other Pertinent Reports

- PW4.S06.0, September 2, 2014 – Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control & Wet Weather Management Policy

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Recommended 2023 CSO Control Program Funding Requests
Appendix 2	Funding Options
Appendix 3	CSO Control / WWM Policy Funding Conditions
Appendix 4	Summary of CSO Project Remaining Budget Encumbrance by Municipality by 2022 Year-End