

Subject: Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program – 2025 Funding Recommendations

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Recommendations

1. That staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue letters to award funding to Local Area Municipalities for qualifying projects as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report PW 19-2025 for funding options as set out in Appendix 2 of Report PW 19-2025 and subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Appendix 3 to Report PW 19-2025; and
2. That Local Area Municipalities **BE ADVISED** of the results of Regional funding support, as outlined in Appendix 1 to PW 19-2025.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations and background information for the 2025 Local Area Municipality (LAM) projects proposed for funding pursuant to the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program and Public Works Policy PW4.S06.0.
- The CSO Control Cost Share Program has been in place since 2007 and shares funding with the LAMs for capital projects that help to mitigate the impacts of wet weather events on the region-wide sanitary system and the environment. The Region benefits from this program by gaining capacity at regionally owned sanitary trunk sewers, sewage pump stations, and wastewater treatment plants, which in return, could be used for growth without oversizing Regional infrastructure.
- Representatives of the CSO Working Group, including representatives from all Municipalities, developed administrative procedures and criteria to evaluate project submissions by LAMs in accordance with the guiding principles.
- The Region includes funding in annual budgets to support these projects. For 2025, \$4,000,000 was budgeted in the Region's Wastewater Operating Budget.
- Twenty-three (23) eligible applications representing a total of 28 eligible projects were submitted by LAMs for 2025; however, the total requested funding is more than the approved program budget of \$4,000,000 by \$3,297,081 for 2025 and

demonstrates high demand to address wet weather issues in sanitary collection systems.

- Twelve (12) municipal projects are recommended for funding in full, four (4) municipal projects are recommended for partial funding and 12 projects are declined for funding as outlined in Appendix 1 to Report PW 19-2025; however, they can be reconsidered, in accordance with the CSO Program Policy, following approval of the Region's 2026 budget.

Financial Considerations

A gross budget of \$4,000,000 has been approved as part of the 2025 Wastewater Operating Budget for the CSO Control Cost Share program. Funding for this program is partially provided through Development Charges (DC) at 50%.

Twenty-eight (28) projects from LAMs are eligible for funding under the 2025 CSO Control Program at a total value of \$7,297,081. As the total requested amount is more than the approved program budget of \$4,000,000 by \$3,297,081, 12 projects will not be able to be funded by the Region's CSO Control Program.

In summary, Appendix 1 to Report PW 19-2025 presents 12 municipal projects recommended for funding in full, four (4) municipal projects recommended for partial funding and 12 unfunded projects. Prior to awarding the 2025 budget, the Region had \$6.0 million in outstanding commitments to eight (8) municipalities for approved, but unspent, CSO projects at 2024 year-end as illustrated in Appendix 4 to Report PW 19-2025.

As an update to PDS-C 1-2024 (Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Update), staff closed 75 projects equating to \$3,357,554 during 2024. This resulted in \$1,707,331 of the encumbrances being returned to the wastewater reserve and \$1,650,223 of the DC portion being returned to the DC reserve in accordance with reserve policy.

Analysis

The CSO Program was Oversubscribed to in 2025

The CSO Control Working Group collaboratively reviews the funding structure and evaluates eligible CSO cost share projects, adjusting if needed, based on present-day needs and funding priorities for different types of work. Appendix 2 to Report PW 19-2025 shows the Funding Options.

A number of local area municipalities (LAMs) submitted eligible applications for the CSO Program, including four (4) from Fort Erie, one (1) from Grimsby, two (2) from Lincoln, four (4) from Niagara Falls, one (1) from Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL), one (1) from Pelham, three (3) from Port Colborne, one (1) from St. Catharines, five (5) from Welland, and one (1) from West Lincoln.

The 23 eligible applications were separated into 28 individual projects eligible for funding, as per the program policy PW4.S06.0.

Regional staff reviewed the 28 eligible projects for cost-share funding. 12 projects were incorporated for full funding and four (4) projects for partial funding into the final recommendation list presented in Appendix 1 to Report PW 19-2025. Projects were awarded based on the program evaluation matrix following the CSO Control and Wet Weather Management Policy as approved by Council.

Wet Weather Flows Continue to Negatively Impact Infrastructure

Like other jurisdictions across Ontario, wet weather flows continue to negatively impact sanitary infrastructure resulting in potential basement flooding, overflows to the environment, and reduce 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. Success of this program reduces the pressure on the capital program and reduce sanitary infrastructure expansions.

Alternatives Reviewed

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

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This report and more specifically, the CSO program supports the Council Strategic Priority of Effective Region through innovative service delivery and collaboration with Municipal partners.

It also assists in establishing objectives of Green and Resilient Region to adopt to climate change impacts to help the current and future infrastructure be more resilient by reducing wet weather flow to gain capacity at regionally owned wastewater infrastructure and provide for growth.

Other Pertinent Reports

- Public Works Policy PW4.S06.0, September 2, 2014 – Combined Sewer Overflow Control & Wet Weather Management Policy (Please contact Niagara Region for copy of this document.)
- [PDS-C 1-2024, January 10, 2024 – Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Update](#)

(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=524e81b7-e788-4788-b364-48a291e6c28b&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=15&Tab=attachments>)

Prepared by:

Ilija Stetic, B.Sc., PMP, CET
Manager W-WW Infrastructure Planning
Public Works Department

Recommended by:

Terry Ricketts, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works
Public Works Department

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with, Susan White, Program Financial Specialist, Renee Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support, and reviewed by Donna Gibbs, Director, Legal and Court Services and Susan Dunsmore, Acting Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development Engineering.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Recommended 2025 CSO Control Program Funding Requests
Appendix 2	Funding Options
Appendix 3	CSO Control Policy Funding Conditions
Appendix 4	Summary of CSO Project Remaining Budget Encumbrances by Municipality at 2024 Year-End