

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3540.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Works Committee
From: Acting Commissioner of Works
Report: #2023-W-34
Date: September 6, 2023

Subject:

Delegation of Authority for the Execution of Agreements related to the Memorandum of Understanding Established for the Lake Ontario Water Quality Forecasting System

Recommendation:

That the Works Committee recommends to Regional Council that Regional Council delegates authority to the Commissioner of Works to execute any necessary documents or agreements related to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Municipality of Peel and the City of Toronto for the governance structure and cost-sharing for the implementation of the Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Plan, subject to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to delegate authority to the Commissioner of Works to execute any necessary documents or agreements related to the Memorandum of Understanding as approved by Regional Council in Report #2019-W-32.

2. Background

2.1 The Regional Municipality of Durham (Durham), the City of Toronto (Toronto) and the Regional Municipality of Peel (Peel) have worked together under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Environment,

Conservation and Parks (MECP) and other stakeholders to develop a program that provides municipal drinking water plant operators with the necessary information about ongoing water quality in Lake Ontario to ensure that the drinking water can meet a high level of safety standards. The Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario (CTC) municipalities developed a Terms of Reference in March 2017, which established the Lake Ontario Collaborative Group (LOCG) and set out the terms related to how the partnership works together to implement the actions and policies specified in the Source Protection Plan.

- 2.2 Through the development of predictive simulation models which incorporate historical and real-time dynamic water quality conditions in Lake Ontario, the Lake Ontario Water Quality Forecasting System (LOWQFS) has better prepared the LOCG to respond to emergencies such as spills, assess potential impacts of new infrastructure and help adapt to climate change.
- 2.3 The implementation has been a joint undertaking through a multi-agency collaborative approach to collect, analyze, and share water quality data and computer simulation modelling of lake circulation and water quality impacts. Coordination of these responsibilities has been essential to achieving the outcomes of protecting the drinking water sources and operational and economic efficiency. By working collaboratively, the costs to the individual municipalities are minimized and more extensive information can be gathered to better predict and monitor the movement of potential water quality threats. This collaboration has been successful to date, and Phase One of the project has been completed, with Phase Two underway. Phase 1 included the installation of instruments in Lake Ontario near City of Toronto infrastructure and the development of the software application and model. Phase 2 includes the installation of instruments in Lake Ontario near Region of Durham and Region of Peel infrastructure followed by calibration updates of the model.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 The authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding was approved by Regional Council in Report #2019-W-32. The Regional Chair and Clerk were authorized to execute any necessary documents or agreements.

4. Memorandum of Understanding

- 4.1 The three municipalities developed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an effective governance structure for working together within the LOCG. The Memorandum of Understanding also outlines the municipalities' responsibilities to secure funding for their capital expenditures and their shared responsibilities to implement and maintain ongoing activities outlined in the work plan as updated from time to time.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is recommended that Regional Council delegate authority to the Commissioner of Works to execute any necessary documents or agreements related to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Municipality of Peel and the City of Toronto, outlining the governance structure and cost-sharing for the implementation of the Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Plan, subject to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor.
- 5.2 This report has been reviewed by Legal Services – Office of the CAO.
- 5.3 For additional information, contact: Tavis Nimmo, Supervisor, Technical Support, at 905-668-7711 extension 3737.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by:

Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA, M.Eng., P.Eng., PTOE
Acting Commissioner of Works

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by:

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer