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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Regional Council
From: Commissioner of Works and Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2024-COW-40
Date: September 25, 2024

Subject:

Confidential Report of the Commissioners of Works and Finance – as it relates to information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them regarding Infrastructure Funding Agreement with the Province of Ontario

Recommendations:

That it be recommended to Regional Council:

- A) That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund Transfer Payment Agreement for the one-time Provincial grant funding in the amount of \$34.91 million approved for Durham Region's Housing-Enabling Water System Fund project;
- B) That the by-law attached as Attachment #1 to this report to permit the Regional Municipality of Durham to enter into the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund Transfer Payment Agreement be passed at the time this report is approved and that the by-law remain confidential until its effective date as defined in the by-law;
- C) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute any necessary related agreements; and
- D) That the Regional Clerk be authorized to publicly release Report #2024-COW-40 and the requisite by-law upon confirmation of the official announcement by the Province of Ontario.

Report:**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Regional Council of the Province of Ontario's (Province) approval of the Regional Municipality of Durham's (Region) Housing-Enabling Water System Fund (HEWSF) funding application for \$34.91 million and to seek approval for the Regional Chair and Clerk to execute the HEWSF Transfer Payment Agreement and for the necessary by-law to be approved by Regional Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Provincial Government established the HEWSF in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement and committed \$200 million over three years for the repair, rehabilitation, and expansion of core water infrastructure to protect communities and enable new housing development.
- 2.2 On March 21, 2024, as part of the provincial budget, the Province announced an additional \$625 million for the HEWSF.
- 2.3 The objectives for the grant are to:
- a. Enable growth and housing opportunities;
 - b. Increase access to potable water; and
 - c. Increase treatment and/or management of wastewater and stormwater.
- 2.4 The program complements the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Building Faster Fund.
- 2.5 The Region completed a full review of all current water supply and sanitary sewerage projects against the eligible criteria outlined in the program guidelines. The Oshawa Water Supply Plant (WSP) Structural Rehabilitation, Equipment Replacement, and System Redundancy Improvements that support Regional System Expansion met the criteria set out in the guidelines, including mandated construction commencement and completion dates.

- 2.6 The Region submitted its application for the Oshawa WSP project on Tuesday, April 10, 2024. The Ontario Minister of Infrastructure notified the Region on July 31, 2024, that the Region's HEWSF application was successful.
- 2.7 All phases of construction for this project will be awarded through the Region's competitive bid process as required by the HEWSF.

3. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 3.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Service Excellence Goal #5.1: Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value; and
 - b. Service Excellence Goal #5.2: Collaborate for a seamless service experience.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 It is recommended that the one-time Provincial grant funding in the amount of \$34.91 million approved for Durham Region's Housing-Enabling Water System Fund project be accepted and that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund Transfer Payment Agreement and any other necessary documentation, including the necessary by-law to permit the Regional Municipality of Durham to enter into the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund Transfer Payment Agreement;
- 4.2 This report has been reviewed by Corporate Services – Legislative Services.
- 4.3 For additional information, contact: Mike Hubble, Director, Environmental Services, at 905-668-7711 ext. 3460.

5. Attachments

Attachment #1: By-Law (to execute the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund (Ontario) Transfer Payment Agreement)

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by:

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

Original signed by:

Nancy Taylor, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance/Treasurer

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by:

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

By-law # 2024-xx
of The Regional Municipality of Durham

Being a by-law to authorize the Regional Chair and the Regional Clerk to execute the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund (Ontario) Transfer Payment Agreement.

Whereas the Provincial government of Ontario has approved a one-time Provincial grant funding in the amount of \$34,912,064 to be provided for Durham Region's Housing-Enabling Water System Fund project;

Now therefore, the Council of The Regional Municipality of Durham hereby enacts as follows:

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Housing-Enabling Water System Fund (Ontario) Transfer Payment Agreement and any other necessary documents with the Province of Ontario to receive the committed funding.

That this by-law be passed as Attachment #1 to Confidential Report #2024-COW-40 and become public on the effective date.

This By-law Read and Passed on the 25th day of September 2024 and become effective on the date to be specified in the public release of this bylaw, the effective date being the date that the Province of Ontario has publicly announced the funding.

J. Henry, Regional Chair and CEO

A. Harras, Regional Clerk