

Region of Waterloo
Engineering and Environmental Services
Water and Wastewater Services

To: Planning and Works Committee

Meeting Date: April 4, 2023

Report Title: Water Supply Strategy Update

1. Recommendation

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo endorse the guiding principles within the Water Supply Strategy as summarized in report EES-WAS-23-003 dated April 4, 2023

2. Purpose / Issue:

The purpose of this report and associated presentation is to provide Council with information regarding the approach for the Region's Water Supply Strategy (Strategy). The report will introduce the guiding principles that will be used to achieve the Strategy goals and objectives and seek Council's endorsement of the guiding principles

3. Strategic Plan:

The Strategy supports a Thriving Economy by developing sustainable water solutions through an Environment and Climate Action lens. The Strategy will ensure safe drinking water is available to meet the strategic objectives of a Safe and Inclusive Community.

4. Report Highlights:

- The goal of the Strategy is to ensure safe, secure and sustainable water sources that meet the community needs based on projected growth up to 2051 from the approved Region Official Plan Update
- Six guiding principles have been identified for the Strategy:
 - Sustainability, source protection, strategic alignment, engagement, innovation, and collaboration
- The objectives of the Strategy are to:
 - develop a strategy that reflects the needs and values of the community through meaningful engagement and communications.
 - balance the need for additional water demands with greater water efficiency methods.
 - Ensure the plan continues to supply water in a sustainable way and protects our water resources for the future; and

- enhance resiliency to climate change and reduce energy demands.
- Recommendations from the Strategy will inform the Region's Water Capital Program, including the prioritization of projects.

5. Background:

The Strategy is being completed to ensure a safe and secure water supply into 2051. The focus of the project is the Region's Integrated Urban Water System, which supplies water to Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, as well as some communities in the Townships of Woolwich, Wilmot, and North Dumfries.

A project charter has been developed for the Strategy with input from a number of stakeholders and can be found on the project's Engage platform and the Region's website.

The Strategy will provide recommendations that will shape and improve the future water supply system. Projects will be identified and prioritized based on the best overall approach to meet the water supply needs of the community. The recommended projects and associated timelines become an important part of the Region's Water Capital Program.

6. Area Municipality Communication and Public/Stakeholder Engagement:

The Strategy will be conducted in accordance with the Municipal Engineers Association's Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MEA-MCEA). Two public consultation centres are planned to inform the public of the project progress and obtain feedback. A communication and engagement plan is being developed for the Strategy that will identify enhanced engagement opportunities and approaches.

7. Financial Implications:

The Region's approved (2023-2032) Water Capital Program includes \$1,134,000 from 2023-2025 for Long Term Water Supply Strategy (project #04007) to be funded from the Water Development Charge Reserve Fund. Recommendations from the Strategy will be included in future ten year capital plans.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

The Strategy commenced at the end of 2022. The project is currently in the first phase, which focuses on identifying key issues and opportunities for water efficiency, conservation, and understanding of future water needs in Waterloo Region. Throughout 2023, the project will focus on identifying opportunities for a more efficient water supply system, managing demand for water, and developing new supply sources. Based on the current project schedule, 2024 will focus on developing and evaluating alternatives

to meet the Regions' water supply needs. The Strategy is aiming to be completed by the end of 2025.

9. Attachments:

Appendix A: Water Supply Strategy Update Presentation (DOCS# 4333924)

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