



REPORT TO: Public Works Committee

**SUBJECT: Request for Review of Remediation Options under Niagara Region
Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Funding Policy**

RECOMMENDATION

That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

PURPOSE

- Respond to staff direction

BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications resulting from this report.

REPORT

On Jan. 19, 2012 Regional Council received a letter from the City of Port Colborne dated December 7, 2011 in which the City requested:

“That the Region of Niagara reconsider the Combined Sewer Overflow Funding Policy to include remediation of all sources of extraneous flows within the designated areas of study, on a case by case basis”.

The Region’s CSO Control Policy currently provides grants to Local Area Municipal projects within road rights-of-way or on municipally-owned property. This includes projects such as sewer separation, CSO storage tanks, sewage pumping station capacity increases, and high rate treatment facilities. Projects on private property, such as foundation drains and roof leader disconnection, are not eligible for funding under the existing CSO Policy.

The decision not to include funding for work on private property is based, in part, on a Public Sector Accounting Board interpretation and the Region’s Capital Asset Management Policy. The CSO policy was intended to ensure the transfer of Regional funding through grants for projects that would result in a Tangible Capital Asset for the Local Area Municipality. (The expected total overflow volume reduction to the environment and return on investment were other considerations).

Based on a review of current Regional policy, staff are of the opinion that source control initiatives on private property would be better coordinated as part of the Integrated Community Planning Department's WaterSmart program. The report, ICP 30-2011, provided an update on the 2010/2011 WaterSmart program which included funding of conservation efforts on private property (including the Rain Barrel program), source protection, and education and outreach programs.


As such, staff proposes to direct requests for works on private property that are intended to address extraneous flows to ICP for consideration as part of the 2012 WaterSmart funding program. Recognizing that WaterSmart funding is limited, requests for private property works could exceed available annual funding, including 2012. Should this occur, Public Works staff will discuss the funding request with Integrated Community Planning Committee and provide joint recommendations for Council action.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

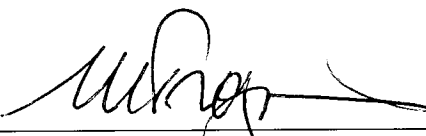
PWA 116-2008, Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy, Proposed Policy Amendments.
ICP 30-2011, Implementing the Niagara Water Strategy: WaterSmart Projects 2010/2011.

PWC 2-2012, Letter from Port Colborne: Council resolution "Private Sector Remediation under the Region of Niagara Combined Sewer Overflow Funding Policy"

Submitted by:


Kenneth J. Brothers, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works

Approved by:


Mike Trojan
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Peter Baker, P.Eng., Associate Director, W&WW Engineering and reviewed by Betty Matthews-Malone, P.Eng., Director, W&WW Services and Glen Cowan, Associate Director, Public Works Finance.

This report was discussed with Mary Lou Tanner, Associate Director Planning, Integrated Planning Department.