



**Meeting Date:** November 24, 2021

**Submitted by:** Rob Cascaden, P.Eng. – Director, Public Works and Engineering

**Report No:** PWE 42-2021

**Subject:** Coldstream Dam Decommissioning Study – Request for Funding

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Report PWE 42-2021 Coldstream Dam Decommissioning Study Request for Funding be received:

AND THAT the funding request from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be approved in the amount of \$10,000 as a contribution towards infrastructure funded through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure capital cost share program;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to prepare correspondence and issue payment to the above noted organization upon confirmation that SCRCA receives approval of the WECl program funding application through the Ontario government.

**Purpose:**

This report seeks approval to commit the Municipality's share for a project eligible for 50% provincial capital funding through the Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry (MNRF) Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) program.

**Background:**

The WECl program is a MNRF capital cost share program that provides funding for flood or erosion control structures such as dams and dykes. This funding can only be accessed by Conservation Authorities (CAs), but can be used for infrastructure owned by municipalities in cases where the infrastructure is maintained by the CA.

Mr. Greg Wilcox, Manager with St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, provided a presentation to Council on September 22, 2021 providing historical information on the purpose and use of the existing mill dam and pond as well as SCRCA, scope of the proposed study and the rational for the need for the proposed study. Mr. Wilcox's presentation slides are attached as Appendix A.

## **Analysis:**

The WECl program provides matched funding to CAs for the major reconstruction and maintenance of flood or erosion control structures that are either owned or maintained by CAs. Because of this requirement, the Municipality must use Clause 33 where by “*services are available from only one supplier by reason of statutory or market-based monopoly*” of its Procurement Policy to engage in this project.

The funding is provided through a prioritization process that includes existing flood and erosion control infrastructure. Projects are selected for funding by a committee made up of five CA representatives, one MNRF representative, and one Conservation Ontario (CO) staff representative. The committee reviews and scores project submissions and determines the priority list of eligible projects on an annual basis.

Major projects must meet the following criteria:

1. Submissions are made by CAs.
  - a) The project must be for existing infrastructure. WECl funding is not for new infrastructure.
2. The Infrastructure must be CA owned or maintained.
3. The works proposed must involve an existing asset from one of the four main infrastructure categories:
  - a) Dams – these can range in size from small rural mill dams to large urban flood control structures.
  - b) Dykes – examples include those that protect urban core areas or agricultural areas, such as the West London Dykes and those near the Lake Erie shoreline.
  - c) Shoreline Erosion Protection – examples include erosion works along the Great Lakes shoreline and inland waterways and lakes.
  - d) Flood Control Channels – these typically involve river channels in urban areas and can also include diversion channels.
4. The program is a 50/50 cost share with the local municipality or other contributors with flood or erosion control infrastructure needs and must have a Council resolution or legally binding agreement to demonstrate financial commitment.
5. Projects must be completed in the fiscal year, April 1 to March 15, in which they are approved and funded.

## **Financial Implications:**

As required by the WECl funding guidelines, a resolution is made by the SCRCA Board to demonstrate its financial commitment and willingness to complete the funded project within the WECl fiscal year (April 1 to March 15). All funding and related project billing is managed directly by the CA. As the CA is responsible for all of the administrative aspects of the project, the procurement for the study are made directly by the CA in accordance with its established procurement policies. The Municipality would typically be subsequently billed a 50% share of eligible costs however in this case the St. Clair

Conservation Foundation is providing 25% of the costs thereby reducing the municipal share to 25% of the eligible costs.

The impact on the 2022 budget will be limited to a \$10,000 contribution which will be funded from the Conservation Authority SCRCA budget. Depending upon the recommendations of the study, it is anticipated that further requests for funding may be received in the future.

**Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Responsive Municipal Government

This report and recommendation aligns with Objective 5.4 - Expand our partnerships. The Municipality enjoys a good working relationship with our 5 local conservation authorities and this is an opportunity to show support for the work undertaken by one of our local CAs.

**Attachments:**

Appendix A – SCRCA WECI Funding Presentation dated September 22, 2021