



Staff Report

Operations – Capital Projects Division

Report To: Special Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: June 27, 2022
Report Number: CSOPS.22.051
Title: East Side Water Supply and Storage Class MCEA PIC 1 Follow-up
Prepared by: Kevin Verkindt, Senior Infrastructure Capital Project Coordinator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.22.051, entitled “East Side Water Supply and Storage Class MCEA PIC 1 Follow-up”.

B. Overview

This report outlines the comments received from the first Public Information Centre held virtually on March 24, 2022, for the East Side Water Supply and Storage Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA).

C. Background

In 2021, the Town initiated the East Side Water Supply and Storage MCEA and retained the engineering consultant, JL Richards Ltd., to lead the project.

As part of the project scope, Town staff identified the need for two public consultation sessions. Ordinarily this would include a Public Information Centre where the public can review the information and ask questions in-person; however, in lieu of a traditional PIC, Town staff conducted a “Virtual PIC” event where the project was presented to the public via online streaming (similar to Council Meetings). The public was able to write-in comments which were responded to live or following the meeting.

On March 1, 2022, staff presented Staff Report CSOPS.22.018 entitled “East Side Water Supply and Storage Class EA PIC 1” to Committee of the Whole for direction to proceed with the virtual PIC. Council provided direction to staff to proceed with hosting the virtual PIC.

On March 24, 2022, Town staff proceeded to host the virtual PIC at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

D. Analysis

The comments received during the virtual PIC were recorded and considered as part of the overall project. These will become part of the public record as with other comments received during public consultations.

The comments received from residents and stakeholders in response to the Notice (issued March 3, 2022) and Public Information Centre (March 24, 2022) were addressed at the PIC. All comments were addressed and are summarized in Attachment #1 East Side Water Supply and Storage MCEA PIC Summary. All attendees were required to pre-register with the Town. There were 24 attendees at the PIC. The most common comments and themes are summarized below.

1. Impact/consideration of future developments

Multiple residents asked how the water supply requirements for proposed developments were being included in this study.

Town Response - The growth projections for the Craigleith service area (excluding Swiss Meadows, Osler Bluff, and Castle Glen) currently being considered includes areas that are reserved for draft plan approvals (i.e. approved but may not have been constructed), are on Official Plan Designated Lands with application, or are on Official Plan Designated Lands without an application.

Where applications have been approved or made, growth will be based on best available information. Where an application has not been made, growth is estimated based on densities prescribed in the Official Plan. Potential changes to estimated unit counts are being closely monitored as the study evolves. As of April 2022, build outgrowth projections for the Craigleith, Swiss Meadows, Osler Bluff and Castle Glen Area are being based on the Town's development Charges Background Study (Hemson Consulting, 2019).

2. Regional Water Supply

Comments were received asking what had been done in regard to investigating a regional water supply that takes into account the existing agreement between the Town of Collingwood and the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Town Response - The Town is investigating the option of a regional water supply and has received Council direction to do so. Many municipalities in South Georgian Bay are experiencing high rates of growth, and servicing this growth is an important subject for all of them. The Town is reaching out to neighbouring municipalities to investigate opportunities for a regional supply model that could work as a longer-term solution.

3. Thornbury Water Treatment Plant Capacity

Residents asked whether the Thornbury Water Treatment Plant has sufficient capacity to treat the additional water required for the East Pressure Zones.

Town Response - The Thornbury Water Treatment Plant has a current capacity of around 15,000 m³ per day. Excluding the water currently coming from Collingwood that is treated at their facilities, there is adequate treatment capacity at the Thornbury Water Treatment Plant as it is operating at around 66% of its total capacity. One of the key challenges in the Town's eastern pressure zones is how far their water must travel from the Thornbury Water Treatment Plant. The near to mid-term capacity issue is with the current feeder main from the Thornbury Water Treatment Plant as it is undersized to serve the near-term needs of the eastern pressure zones. Treatment capacity has been identified as a longer-term issue that would need to be addressed by expanding the capacity at the existing Water Treatment Plant, by building a new Water Treatment Plant to service the eastern pressure zones, or increasing supply from a neighbouring municipality.

Next Steps

The second PIC will be held following the evaluation of the alternative solutions to present the assessment and evaluation of the alternative solutions to the public along with the preferred alternative solution and to elicit comments and feedback regarding the process, alternatives and preferred solutions.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

F. Environmental Impacts

Significant alterations to municipal infrastructure require a Class Environmental Assessment. The Class Environmental Assessment takes into consideration the impacts and the solutions on the natural and cultural environment. The level of impacts in each option are weighed against other impacts such as cost. Options for mitigating natural and cultural impacts (such as historic significance) are also put forth.

G. Financial Impacts

N/A

H. In Consultation With

Jason Petznick, Communications Coordinator

Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water and Wastewater Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report was the subject of a Public Information Centre in accordance with the following schedule:

- March 3, 2022 Notice of Study Commencement and Notice of PIC 1 advertised in Collingwood Connection;
- March 3, 2022 Notice of Study of Commencement and Notice of PIC 1 mailed to Stakeholders;
- March 17, 2022 Notice of Study of Commencement and Notice of PIC 1 advertised in Collingwood Connection;
- March 1, 2022 Committee of the Whole – Initial staff report CSOPS.22.018 with recommendation to proceed to public consultation;
- March 14, 2022 Council – Recommendations from March 1, 2022 Committee of the Whole confirmed;
- March 24, 2022 Virtual PIC 1 held.

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Kevin Verkindt, Senior Infrastructure Capital Project Coordinator icpc@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. CSOPS.22.051 Attachment 1 East Side Water Supply and Storage MCEA PIC 1 Summary

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CSOPS.22.051 East Side Water Supply and Storage Class MCEA PIC Follow-up.docx
Attachments:	- CSOPS.22.051 Attachment 1 East Side Water Supply and Storage MCEA PIC Summary.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 3, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Brent Rolufs - Jun 3, 2022 - 8:00 AM

Shawn Carey - Jun 3, 2022 - 8:04 AM