

August 4, 2016

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
ENGINEERING SERVICES 2016-34**

TO: Committee of the Whole
SUBJECT: Ray Twinney LID and Lions Park Drainage Update
ORIGIN: Director, Engineering Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Development and Infrastructure Services Report – Engineering Services 2016-34 dated August 4, 2016 entitled “Ray Twinney LID and Lions Park Drainage Update” be received and the following recommendations be adopted:

- 1. THAT the Ray Twinney Low Impact Development Drainage Improvement budget be increased to \$450,000 (from the original \$350,000), with \$150,000 of the total being funded by the LSRCA, an additional \$100,000 being funded by Environment Canada, and \$200,000 being funded by the Town’s Asset Replacement Fund;**
- 2. AND THAT the Lions Park Drainage Improvement budget be increased to \$615,000 (from the original \$304,000), with \$171,000 being funded by grants from the LSRCA and Environment Canada, and \$444,000 from the Asset Replacement Fund.**

BACKGROUND / COMMENTS

Two stormwater drainage improvement projects are now ready for construction. Because the preliminary budgets were prepared before the final designs were produced, they are somewhat lower than the required budgets and additional funding will be required. The two projects are:

1. Ray Twinney Low Impact Development (LID) Retrofit Project, and
2. Lions Park Drainage Improvement Project.

Both are described in further detail below.



1. Ray Twinney LID Project:

The Ray Twinney LID retrofit project will implement best management practices for stormwater management to address onsite drainage issues and to reduce downstream flooding in Western Creek. This project will employ LID solutions to manage and treat stormwater close to the source instead of using the traditional method of piping stormwater downstream and discharging into the nearest watercourse.

This project has been heavily supported both from financial and technical aspects by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). Originally, the Town was successful in securing \$100,000 from the LSRCA to construct this project. An additional \$100,000 was also secured through the Town's successful application for Environment Canada's (EC) last round of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. Knowing that additional funding would be coming from other sources, Council approved an additional \$150,000 for this project to be constructed in 2016. This made for a grand total of \$350,000 available for the project construction.

The Town proceeded with a design for the works, which resulted in a final cost estimate of \$450,000 to construct the project. This means that the total project budget falls \$100,000 short. However, the LSRCA has once again come to the table and has offered to cover half of that deficit by contributing an additional \$50,000, if the Town would agree to provide matching funds. This increases the LSRCA's total contribution towards the project to \$150,000. In addition to this, the LSRCA has also pledged to cover the cost of the Town's Senior Climate Change Coordinator salary from January 2017 to March 2017 to manage this project to completion. This amount is over and above its already significant contribution of \$150,000. The Environment Canada funding of \$100,000 for the project remains unchanged.

This project is time-sensitive, as both the LSRCA and Environment Canada require the project to be completed by March 2017 in order to obtain the funds. If we do not complete the project by March 2017, we will lose \$250,000 in funding (\$150,000 from LSRCA and \$100,000 from EC), as well as the salary to keep the Senior Climate Change Coordinator with the Town until March 2017. Therefore, Staff recommends that \$50,000 of the \$100,000 budget shortfall be funded from the Asset Replacement Fund.

2. Lions Park Drainage Improvement Project:

The Lions Park project is needed to address drainage issues that have plagued this park for many years. A positive spin-off of the project will be the enhanced recreational opportunities that will result from drying up of the lands as the drainage watercourse is re-established. Other benefits are less flooding of the park and of adjacent residents' properties. The design is now close to completion and a very well-attended Public Information Centre (PIC) was held in June. The Town received very positive feedback from the community for this project as a result of the PIC.

Main elements of the project are re-establishment of a proper drainage channel by deepening and widening the existing channel. Also, the channel will be relocated northward, away from D'Arcy Street. A wetland feature will be established upstream near Lorne Avenue to increase stormwater storage capacity during more intense storm events, thereby mitigating the risk of flooding downstream. The project is nearing the end of the design phase and will be ready for construction in 2016.

Similar to Ray Twinney, the LSRCA is supporting this project both financially and technically, having granted \$40,000 for the design, as well as \$16,000 for construction. The Town was also successful in obtaining a second grant from Environment Canada's (EC) last round of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up fund in the amount of \$155,000. The original 2016 budget of \$304,000 for construction of this project was based on the assumption we would receive this amount in grants. However, we have only received a total of \$171,000 in grants for construction.

Now that the design is complete, the construction estimates have been calculated at \$615,000. The difference in the budgeted amount versus the actual project estimate is due to unforeseeable site conditions that required major changes to the original design concept and not receiving as much funding as we anticipated.

This very worthwhile and long overdue project is also time-sensitive, in that all construction works must be completed by March 2017 to access the grants. If the project does not go ahead or is not completed by March 2017, the Town will lose \$171,000 in external grant funding to complete the work.

Staff recommends that the \$444,000 budget shortfall be funded from the Asset Replacement Fund.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

- Living Well...by providing improved stormwater drainage and protecting our natural environment.
- Well Balanced...by increasing accessibility to green and open spaces.
- Well Equipped and Managed... through fiscal responsibility.
- Well Respected... through managed partnerships and cooperation with stakeholders.

CONSULTATION

Public Consultation for the Lions Park project occurred on June 9, 2016. There were approximately 25 attendees and the response was very positive. Residents who lived in that area for many years had been affected by poor drainage conditions in the park. The main comments were to ensure that the Town addresses flooding concerns and to make the park more functional, especially on the east side of the park where it tends to stay wet for long periods of time after it rains.

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

If Council approves these recommendations, it will allow the Town's Senior Climate Change Coordinator to stay on past her current contract end date of December 31, 2016. The LSRCA is pledging to fund the Coordinator's salary until March 31, 2017 to manage these projects.

BUDGET IMPACT

Operating Budget

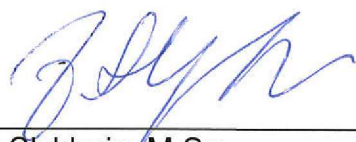
This report does not recommend any initiatives that would have an impact on current and future operating budgets.

Capital Budget

The original 2016 budget for the Lions Park project was \$304,000. However, this was based on an assumption that grants totaling this amount would be obtained. However, due to changes in funding availability, the Town received a reduced amount of \$171,000 in grants. Staff recommends that the additional balance of funds from the Town required for the Lions Park Drainage (\$444,000) and the Ray Twinney LID Project (\$50,000) be funded from the Asset Replacement Fund. Please note that in addition to the substantial grant funds already committed, a further \$66,000, plus additional funding to extend the Senior Climate Change Coordinator's salary from December 31, 2016 until March 31, 2017 will be contributed by the LSRCA. If the Town does not go ahead with these two projects, it stands to lose \$461,000 in external funding (\$206,000 from the LSRCA plus \$255,000 from Environment Canada), plus the Senior Climate Change Coordinator's salary for 3 months in 2017.

CONTACT

For more information regarding this report, please contact: Jen Slykhuis, M.Sc., Senior Environmental Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation, at ext: 2506 or via email at jslykhuis@newmarket.ca



Jen Slykhuis, M.Sc.
Senior Environmental Coordinator,
Climate Change Adaptation
Engineering Services



Mike Mayes,
Director, Financial Services / Treasurer



Rachel Prudhomme, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Director, Engineering Services



Peter Noehammer, P. Eng.
Commissioner,
Development and Infrastructure Services