



Information Package Memo

To: Mayor Chopp and Members of Council

From: Jason Godby, General Manager

Date: December 4, 2020

Re: Norfolk County Water Systems Update

Further to the information provided in Staff Report PW 20-63, Introduction to the Inter Urban Water Supply, staff have assembled the following additional information:

Status Update – Simcoe North East Well Development

This is an ongoing groundwater exploration project. Preliminary pumping tests have been completed and are now undergoing detailed review and analysis. Staff anticipate the final results of these tests to be available in Q1 of 2021.

Status Update – Port Dover Water Treatment Plant Clarifier Replacement

This is an ongoing project to replace the failing clarifier unit at the Port Dover Water Treatment Plant. Engineering is nearing completion, and staff anticipate tender issuance in January 2021.

Port Dover Water Treatment Plant – Short Term Capacity Solutions

Staff are engaging the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to discuss options relating to the potential for installation of additional 'temporary' water treatment capacity.

Staff and WSP are also preparing a workplan to provide upgrades of the Port Dover WTP. With the ongoing clarifier replacements, consideration has been given to what additional works can be completed to restore additional water capacity at the WTP.

While we do not anticipate that a speedy process to restore the plant to its full rated capacity, staff are hopeful that we may be able to bring the capacity up to 5MLD, which would meet and exceed our current Maximum Day Demands. While this work is not expected to result in the removal of the development freeze in Port Dover, this may allow for the building restrictions in Port Dover to be removed. This could mean that while the County will no longer be in a position to approve new developments, we may be in a position whereby previously approved developments can be fully constructed.

Additionally, the IUWS Option 2.4 also includes a scenario to perform upgrades of the Port Dover WTP, which includes an analysis of the work required to increase the treatment capacity to meet current demands, as well as future demands to 2041. This would provide the ability to remove the building restrictions and the development freeze in Port Dover.

Additional details will be coming forward in Q1 of 2021.

Comparative Analysis of theoretical water supply and existing 'ground-truthed' water supply trends and operational realities

Staff continue to review the ongoing water system demands in each of our communities compared to the operational realities of our existing water sources and treatment facilities. Staff are growing more concerned with the County's ability to continue approving new development. This is based on a review of the actual amount of water we can produce and distribute, the existing consumer demands, and the projected demands based on current development commitments. Staff have noted that while we are currently able to meet the Maximum Day Demand and Average Day Demands of the following communities, that should all currently approved development proceed to completion, we may be unable to meet the future water needs of these communities, and the County may be required to freeze new development approvals in Simcoe and Port Rowan.

As a result, Engineering, Environmental Services and Planning staff will be working to verify this analysis of the water flow data and pending development applications. Analysis similar to that completed for Port Dover in 2019 will be presented to Council in the coming months.

Inter Urban Water Supply

A draft version of the Inter Urban Water Supply (IUWS) has been attached to this memo, and will be made available to the public on line.

This is a draft report intended to provide additional information to Council and the public. This report does not contain the financial analysis for each short-listed option, or a final recommendation. These details are still in the final review stage, and will not be fully available until Q1 of 2021. A number of other IUWS-related studies (ie. Rate Study) have been very recently completed, and the results of these studies need to be factored into this report prior to finalization and recommendation of a preferred solution.

Ongoing Discussion with Haldimand County

Norfolk and Haldimand staff are in regular communication on this matter. Haldimand staff are bringing forward a report to Haldimand County Council on Tuesday December 8th, 2020 seeking further confirmation that Haldimand County supports the sale of treated drinking water to Norfolk County, and to authorize staff to negotiate the agreement. Haldimand County is also in the final stages of completing a Water Rate Study, which is to provide the water rate at which Norfolk County will be charged for the purchase of water should we proceed in this manner. This rate will be plugged into the IUWS financial analysis of options in order to most accurately calculate the costs of these options.

Going Forward

With the arrival of the most recent information (Haldimand Water Rate Study) and continually evolving details on the short term water supply feasibility for Port Dover, staff are planning to bring further details forward in January 2021.