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Date: March 6, 2019
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Ken Vegh, CRS
RE: Drainage update as requested by Mr. Welker
Report No.: MS 2019-15

AIM

The aim of this report is to provide Council an update of a drain maintenance issue brought forward by Mr. Richard Welker.

BACKGROUND

During a delegation to council in September of 2017, Mr. Richard Welker requested information regarding drain maintenance practices in the Town of Kingsville. As such the following motion was made:

92-2018

Moved by Deputy Mayor Gord Queen

Seconded by Councilor Thomas Neufeld

That Council receive the information from Mr. Welker pertaining to his previously submitted Request(s) for Drain Maintenance and Repair and direct Administration to provide further report, including ERCA comments regarding drain maintenance practices.

Mr. Welker's main focus is to improve our municipal drain outlets and the functionality of the entire drainage system within the Town of Kingsville. Mr. Welker brought forward an idea of extending the Centre Branch of the No. 47 Drain beyond its current limits. The Centre Branch of the No.47 Drain is a Municipal Drain that flows adjacent to the McCain Sideroad and outlets into a natural watercourse just south of Road 2 West. Mr. Welker has suggested that the Centre Branch of the No. 47 Drain be extended to outlet to an area south of County Road 20.

DISCUSSION

The idea of extending the Centre Branch of the No.47 Drain beyond its current outlet was a topic of conversation during many meetings of the Drainage Advisory Committee.

Members of the Essex Region Conservation Authority were involved in the numerous discussions and expressed their views on the viability of extending the Drain. The opinion of ERCA was that the only way to extend the Drain beyond its current limits was through the *Drainage Act* and to have a Drainage Engineer appointed by Council to create a report and assessment schedule for the affected lands.

The role of the Drainage Superintendent within the Drainage Advisory Committee was to provide information to the committee as requested. Throughout the many discussions regarding the topic of extending the drain, responses were prepared in order to address questions regarding the process of assuming this drain.

Twenty-four (24) municipal drains and well over four hundred (400) properties outlet into the Centre Branch of the No.47 Drain, and to date the Town has only received one concern from one landowner regarding the functionality of the drain.

I have monitored the Centre Branch of the No.47 drain and its contributory drains for the entirety of 2018 and the early part of 2019 to view the flows during various stages of the year. Each season brings its own set of unique challenges including severe rain events and frozen or saturated ground conditions. Snow and ice jams were also present within the monitored drains during this time period. My focus was to identify any flooding concerns or lack of proper drainage that may hinder farming practices.

Mr. Sid Vander Veen who was the Drainage Coordinator for Ontario attended a Drainage Advisory Committee meeting and provided insight into how to proceed. He expressed a concern that so few landowners had issues with the Drain and questioned how the upstream properties would react to being assessed costs to create an engineer's report and perform the subsequent drain maintenance. However, the Drainage Advisory Committee recommended to Council that a Drainage Engineer be appointed to extend the Centre Branch of the No. 47 Drain.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

To become a leader in sustainable infrastructure renewal and development.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

All costs associated with moving forward with the recommendation of the Drainage Advisory Committee will be determined by the Drainage Engineer. Historical precedence with Drainage Reports resulted in assessed costs being shared by all lands affected with both the report and the recommended maintenance works.

CONSULTATIONS

ERCA - Regarding their level of involvement in this process only to discover that it is very limited if at all.

Various Drainage Engineers - To discuss the various options and action that may be undertaken.

Affected landowners assessed to the Centre Branch of the No. 47 Drain - To obtain their opinions on the functionality of the drain in its current state as well as landowners that abut the natural watercourse that may become part of the Centre Branch of the No. 47 Drain if it is extended beyond its current limits.

Municipal Services- Internal review

RECOMMENDATION

That Council maintain the current outlet of the Centre Branch of the No. 47 Drain.

Ken Vegh

Ken Vegh, CRS
Drainage Superintendent

Shaun Martinho

Shaun Martinho, H.B.Sc., C.E.T.
Public Works Manager

Andrew Plancke

G.A Plancke, Civil Eng. Tech (Env)
Director of Municipal Services

Peggy Van Mierlo-West

Peggy Van Mierlo-West, C.E.T.
Chief Administrative Officer