

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: February 28, 2024
To: Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee
From: Johnny Bowes, Manager of Environmental Services
Report Number: ITS24-002
Attachments: Infrastructure Review 2023

Title: Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2023 Infrastructure Review

Objective: A requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) Operational Plan is for the Quality Management System (QMS) representative to ensure annual infrastructure review results are conveyed to Top Management being the Director of Infrastructure Services, the Manager of Environmental Services, and the Owner (Council). This report fulfills that requirement.

Background: The DWQMS is mandated through the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, and promotes transparency between the Owner and the Water Operating Authority (Water Division). The Infrastructure Review is 1 of 21 Elements of the Quality Management System.

Analysis: The 2023 Infrastructure Review was conducted on December 12th, 2023. The Infrastructure Review looked at 3 components:

- Maintenance Review (November 1st, 2022 to November 30th, 2023)
 - Provided a summary of operational maintenance activities in the water distribution system.
- Major Projects Review (November 1st, 2022 to November 30th, 2023)
 - Provided a summary of distribution and supply projects, both operational and capital, that cover a wide range of topics. A description for each project is included along with the objective of each project.
- Major Projects (completed)
 - Provided a summary of completed projects for the review period along with costing.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The attached Infrastructure Review Table identifies approximately \$88,000 of previously established operational and capital items that have already been funded through the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Most of the projects listed have been completed and as mentioned, were paid for from existing reserves. Although some projects are listed as “ongoing”, the costs associated with them were covered in 2023. The outstanding work for the ongoing project is implementation, which will be completed throughout 2024.

The required annual review of capital asset information will continue to assist in ensuring that assets are maintained or replaced when required, and that the rates collected from users are sufficient to cover these costs.

Legal considerations:

Maintaining a Municipal Drinking Water License is a requirement to legally operate a drinking water system. Completing this annual infrastructure review and report to Council is needed to satisfy the requirements for a Municipal Drinking Water License renewal.

Costs would be incurred by the City of Stratford if we did not meet these requirements as the MECP would be required to retain experts (at the City’s expense) to conduct an investigation into the municipal drinking water system and raw water supply in order to allow us to continue to supply water.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford’s physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford’s resources and environment.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Sustainable Water

Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard 2023 Infrastructure Review (ITS24-002) be received by Council to fulfil the requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.

Prepared by: Johnny Bowes, Manager of Environmental Services

Recommended by: Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure Services

Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer