

# STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



<b>Report to:</b>	Mayor and Council Members	<b>Priority:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Laurie Wills Director, Public Works lwills@cobourg.ca	<b>Meeting Type:</b>  Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	June 21, 2021		
<b>Report No.:</b>	Public Works-044-21		
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**Subject/Title:** Additional Budget Approval – Massey Creek Flood Reduction Environmental Assessment Amendment

## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve an additional \$20,000 towards the Engineering Special Project: Massey Creek Flood Reduction Environmental Assessment Amendment.

### 1. STRATEGIC PLAN

Prosperity Pillar: The Town Plans for, markets and develops assets for economic growth and financial security.

### 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

N/A

### 3. PURPOSE

To amend the environmental assessment report completed for the Massey Creek Flood Reduction plan in 2011.

### 4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

2021 Engineering special project operating budget.  
Environmental Assessment Act

### 5. BACKGROUND

In the 1980's the first phase of the diversion channel was designed and constructed within the Lucas Point Industrial Park east of Normar Road. Over 10 years ago, the Town collaborated with GRCA to understand what options were available to alleviate flooding along Massey Creek and potentially open up more developable lands in the Lucas Point Industrial Park between King Street and the existing diversion channel at Normar Road. There are several parcels of land that benefit from the diversion channel including public and private lands.

In 2010 a consultant was retained to conduct a Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) as is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment Act (Act) when the alteration of a watercourse is being investigated. The results of the study and preliminary design are included as an attachment which illustrates the amount of developable lands that will be opened up as a result of the diversion channel implementation.

The EA was completed in November of 2011 and under the Act, the conditions and recommendations of the EA are valid for a period of 10 years before the EA must either be amended or otherwise expires.

## **6. ANALYSIS**

Upon receiving a quotation for the EA amendment it was brought to the attention of Staff that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks will also require an environmental review including the following:

- Species at Risk screening;
- Vegetation assessment in accordance with the Ecological Lands Classification (ELC) for Southern Ontario;
- Aquatic Habitat Assessment for Massey Creek between King St and Normar Road;
- General Breeding Bird survey;
- Confirmation of habitat for Species at Risk (SAR);
- General and incidental flora and fauna observations; and,
- A Natural Heritage Assessment review of the impacts of the proposed alternatives, applicable regulatory requirements and mitigative measures to avoid impacts to identified natural heritage features.

The environmental review will ensure that any changes to regulations over the past 10 years will not impact the results of the initial EA report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS**

Staff included \$5,000 in the 2021 budget to have the EA amended which may have been sufficient funds if only a report refresh was required. The environmental review requires an additional \$15,000 however we have included a \$5,000 contingency in case there are additional environmental surveys determined to be necessary through background review and/or consultation with regulatory authorities ie. Fisheries, which have not been included at this time.

An environmental assessment such as this can typically cost upwards of \$100,000 to start from scratch and can often take years to complete. Investing \$25,000 now to amend the existing EA for another 10 years will ensure that the project is ready to go to detailed design and construction as soon as a development opportunity arises within the subject lands.

Funding for this project is proposed to come from the Lucas Point Reserve.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

Staff recommend approval of a total budget of \$25,000 to amend the Massey Creek Flood Reduction Environmental Assessment to be funded by the Lucas Point Reserve. The study is a requirement for the design of a future capital project being the construction of the flood reduction diversion channel which will open up development lands in the Lucas Point Industrial Park.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Massey Creek Flood Reduction EA Amendment - Public Works-044-21.docx
Attachments:	- Existing and Proposed Floodplain Limits.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 9, 2021

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

**Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer - Jun 9, 2021 - 11:36 AM**