SUBJECT: Establishing of Sub-Committee for Phase 3 and 4 of the Combined Sewer Overflow Control and Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Class Environmental Assessment (PW07007) - (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That a Sub-Committee be established to provide input for Phases 3 and 4 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control and Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Expansion;

(b) That the Sub-Committee include three to four members of the Public Works Committee and the General Managers of Finance & Corporate Services and Public Works;

(c) That the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee be brought back to the Public Works Committee for approval;

(d) That the term of the Sub-Committee coincide with the 2006-2010 term Council, or until such time as the mandate is completed.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As a result of the anticipated environmental, social and financial impacts that the recommended wastewater strategy identified in the Water and Wastewater Master Plan for the Lake Based Systems will have on the City, it is being recommended that a Sub-Committee be established to provide direction and support to the project team proceeding with Phase 3 and 4 of the Municipal Class EA process for the CSO control and the Woodward Avenue WWTP expansion (herein to referred to as ‘Wastewater System Expansion Project’).

The Wastewater System Expansion Project is critical as it directly impacts many City initiatives. Considering the Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is nearing 90% capacity, limited development will be allowed to continue across the City until a WWTP expansion is undertaken. In addition, and as a result of the need for plant expansion, the City will be required by the Ministry of the Environment to treat and manage its wastewater to more strict standards than currently allowed. These treatment standards will also be developed in conjunction with the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan targets set to achieve ultimate delisting of Hamilton harbour as an area of concern by 2015. The cost to achieve these objectives is budgeted at approximately three hundred and fifty million dollars ($350M) for which a sustainable funding program is required. Although funding will be generated through water rates, offsetting these costs through development charges (for which the by-law is currently being reviewed), and Provincial and Federal funding will be critical. Currently, it has been announced that the City has or will received a total of over fifty million dollars ($50M) between the Provincial and Federal levels of Government for wastewater expansion related projects. This funding has specific terms and conditions for when the associated projects are to be completed which is March 2010, and is also directly related to the overall Wastewater System Expansion Project.

Establishing a Sub-Committee to work with the Wastewater System Expansion Project would provide the team support by ensuring City objectives and pressures as listed above are met as efficiently and effectively as possible. A Sub-Committee could offer direction and support on a timelier basis than can be obtained through conventional methods of receiving Council input, and major decisions and status reports will still formally be brought forward to Council as required. To establish the Sub-Committee, it is anticipated that 3-4 members of Council, the General Manager of Public Works and the General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services would participate and be appointed by the Public Works Committee and Council as deemed appropriate. A Sub-Committee would meet with the project team and other senior staff on a monthly basis for the duration of the Phase 3 and 4 Class EA process (January 2007 - May 2007), and bi-monthly throughout the design and construction stages, or as required for a period of time equal to the duration of this term of Council. These and other terms of the Committee would be finalized by the Sub-Committee should this recommendation be approved.
On September 13, 2006, City Council endorsed the Integrated Water and Wastewater Master Plan for the Lake Based Systems - Class Environmental Assessment. The Water and Wastewater servicing strategies were prepared under the Environmental Assessment Act and satisfied Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA). This approach was developed through strategic policies generated through VISION 2020, “Building a Strong Foundation” and it’s Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS). The objective of the Master Plan was to identify the upgrades required to service the City for the next thirty years. Those projects identified in the Master Plan as “Schedule B” (environmental screening requirement), were filed for a 30 day public review (November 22, 2006-December 22, 2006).

The Master Plan also identified “Schedule C” undertakings (environmental study report requirement), including the Wastewater servicing solution, through assessment of a range of strategies. The preferred solution includes collection system upgrades to improve capture of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) during wet weather periods and conveyance to the Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) while alleviating system surcharging wherever possible. In addition, upgrades and expansion of the WWTP have been identified in order to manage increased flows as well as to meet treatment objectives defined by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (RAP) as well as for servicing of future growth as identified through Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS).

Phases 3 and 4 of the Municipal Engineers Association’s Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process are proceeding to further develop the solutions that will meet the above noted objectives as identified as part of Phases 1 and 2 of the Master Plan process. This process will select the preferred technology and develop a conceptual design document outlining the necessary details that will be taken forward for Council and Ministry of the Environment (MOE) approval, design and implementation. This work begins with assembly of necessary committees that will be consulted throughout the process, including a Community Liaison Committee (CLC), a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a Sub-Committee as recommended herein.

The CLC will be assembled by selecting from responses received as a result of invitations and hand delivered notices within the study area as well as through advertisements in the local paper and the City website. The role of the CLC will be to provide community related input to the project team relevant to environmental, social or economic aspects that arise throughout the process. In addition, in order to receive further community input, Public Information Centres (PIC) will also be held.

The TAC will be assembled by invitations and will include technical representation from members such as, the MOE, Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, Environment Canada, Infrastructure Canada and Hamilton Conservation Authority. Their role will be to provide direction on the environmental aspects of the process which will then form the basis for the ultimate design criteria that will be used to establish the levels to which the City will be required to treat wastewater and manage wet weather flows.
SUBJECT: Establishing of Sub-Committee for Phase 3 and 4 of the Combined Sewer Overflow Control and Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Class Environmental Assessment (PW07007) - (City Wide) - Page 4 of 6

As a result of the anticipated environmental, social and financial impacts that the recommended Wastewater strategy identified in the Water and Wastewater Master Plan for the Lake Based Systems will have on the City, it is being recommended that a sub-committee be established to provide direction and support to the project team proceeding with Phase 3 and 4 of the Municipal Class EA process for the Wastewater System Expansion Project. It is anticipated that three to four members of Council would participate and be appointed by the Public Works Committee and Council as deemed appropriate and would meet with the project team and other senior staff on a monthly basis for the duration of the Phase 3 and 4 Class EA process (January 2007 - May 2007), and bi-monthly throughout the design and construction stages, or as required for a period of time equal to the duration of this current term of Council. These and other terms of the Committee would be finalized by the Sub-Committee should this recommendation be approved.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The rationale for recommending a Sub-Committee is based on the fact that many of the City’s key initiatives are directly dependent on the success of implementing the recommendations identified in the Water and Wastewater Master Plan for the Lake Based Systems. The recommendations include environmental, social and economic issues for which a close rapport with Council is required.

A Sub-Committee could offer direction and support on a timelier basis than can be obtained through conventional methods of receiving Council input. A Similar approach was adopted when the City returned plant operations from a private contract to that of an in-house model. A Sub-Committee was created and offered an invaluable resource to the project team which ultimately allowed for successfully achieving City objectives to the satisfaction of Council and the City as a whole.

The criticality of delivering this program in a timely manner impacts many City initiatives including,

**Wastewater Services:** The City’s current wastewater treatment facility is reaching 90% capacity resulting in the need for immediate expansion. This will ensure readily available employment lands, as well as wastewater services are available in a timely manner that will meet the needs of our community and constructed to match the pace of growth as set by Council through the GRIDS process. Facility expansions the size of which will be undertaken at the Woodward Avenue facility require several years to implement as it must follow the Municipal EA process, followed by pre-design, design and construction. The current schedule shows that facility expansion which will increase treatment capacity will not be available until 2010 and will be at a cost of approximately three hundred and fifty million dollars ($350M). It must be noted that until the facility expansion is completed, any development which could increase wastewater flows to the Woodward WWTP will be limited to the available capacity of the existing facility. As a result of the lengthy process and significant cost, identifying and dealing with potential issues well in advanced of when they would actually create potential delays to schedule will be critical.
Remediation of Hamilton Harbour: In addition to system expansion, the Wastewater System Expansion Project will also be addressing targets that have been set for the remediation of Hamilton Harbour. The goal of delisting Hamilton Harbour as an area of concern with the International Joint Commission is currently set for 2015 and achieving this goal would allow the City to realize the full potential of a significant natural resource which in-turn, would assist in revitalizing many harbour front initiatives and improve the social and environmental well being of our community.

Government Funding: Currently the City has received a total of twelve million ($12M) in funding from the Provincial Infrastructure Renewal (PIR) program to assist the City in addressing the management of wet weather flows, and another fifty million dollars of funding ($15M Province and $35M Federal) have been committed under the Infrastructure Canada program, for infrastructure projects geared towards assisting the City meet harbour remediation targets. Maintaining the Wastewater System Expansion Project schedule will be critical in order to meet the various program timelines of March 2010. In addition, meeting these goals will ensure the City maintains a high level of confidence with both levels of government in our ability to meet large infrastructure investment project schedule and budget in order to position ourselves to secure future funding opportunities.

Managing Approved Infrastructure Projects: As part of the 2007 Water and Wastewater Rate Budget submission, over $1.5 Billion dollars has been identified over the next ten years. Executing the associated capital programs as effectively and efficiently as possible will be critical to ensure Water and Wastewater services are constructed and maintained, and revenue is collected in a timely manner as to maintain the approved financing strategies for sustainability.

Having support from Council in the form of establishing a Sub-Committee will ensure City objectives and pressures are met as efficiently and effectively as possible. Major decisions and status reports will still be brought forward to Council as required.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

N/A

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Although there are no Staffing or Legal implications with this recommendation, it must be noted that the Water and Wastewater program is carrying a $1.5 Billion dollar budget over the next ten years as outlined in the 2007 Water and Wastewater Rates Budget submission.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

N/A
Consultation was undertaken with members of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) who agreed that the development of a sub-committee for the purpose of providing input into Phase 3 and 4 of the Municipal Class EA process for the Wastewater System Expansion Project was prudent and supported.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

- **Community Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  By providing a clear conduit through members of the proposed PSC to ensure community concerns are addressed as early as possible throughout the planning and implementation process.

- **Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  By having support from the PSC in understanding and promoting the environmental initiatives which will be achieved once the ultimate recommendations of the water and wastewater master plan are implemented.

- **Economic Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
  By having timely support and direction from the PSC and having them knowledgeable and able to champion initiatives to seek funding from higher levels of government for City water and wastewater infrastructure initiatives and sustain affordable rate increases as much as possible.

**Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?**

☑ Yes ☐ No

Yes, as detailed above.

**Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?**

☑ Yes ☐ No

Having a PSC assist staff in executing this very complex program will promote Council/staff interactions and attract other professionals to join the City knowing they will too have support from Council members in executing any large City initiatives.