SUBJECT: Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Control Class Environmental Assessment Study (PW08086) - (Wards 5, 9, 10, and 11)

RECOMMENDATION:
That the General Manager of the Public Works Department be authorized and directed to retain Hamilton Conservation Authority as a single source provider to undertake the proposed Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Class Environmental Study to an upset limit of $230,000 from Project ID: 5180755701, Project ID name: Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Control.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The need for a flood and erosion control assessment in the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek watershed areas has been identified and funds were initially approved in 2007 Rates Budget to undertake this work.

The Strategic Planning section has been operating without a full staff complement for more than one year. Due to these vacancies, staff have been unable to undertake the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Class Environmental Study. The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) is in a position to lead this study on our behalf, provided we support them financially. It is not unusual to have a third party take a
technical lead role on a City financed project. The City would retain and oversee all financial project management responsibilities for the proposed project as well as maintaining final approvals status for project deliverables. Therefore, the recommendation is to retain the HCA as a single source provider to undertake this study using the approved funds in Project ID: 5180755701, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Control.

BACKGROUND:
This study will be undertaken to address flooding and erosion concerns associated with the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek watersheds. The study objectives are to provide remedial measures that are required to reduce or eliminate flooding impacts to property, and infrastructure as a result of storm events up to and including the Regional Storm Event. There are also persistent slope stability and slope erosion problems that need to be addressed.

Necessary works associated with the study include the following:

• Evaluate the study area for existing hydrologic, hydrogeologic, geotechnical, environmental, land use and natural heritage conditions;
• Develop an appropriate flood and erosion control management strategy, including identification of general locations and preliminary design for any required stormwater management facilities;
• Identify impacts of storm flows within the natural environment, property, and hydraulic structures;
• Identification of floodplain limits;
• Characterization of existing fish habitats;
• Define qualitative fisheries assessment;
• Identification of stream/valley corridor features;
• Identification of existing vegetation communities;
• Conduct terrestrial assessment;
• Conduct stream morphological assessment;
• Conduct channel erosion assessment;
• Conduct slope erosion assessment;
• Conduct hydrogeological assessment.

The study will consider current and planned land use scenarios over approximately the next thirty years. The study is intended to become the basis for and used in support of future investigations and for the specific detailed design and construction projects recommended.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:
The HCA has the crucial resources and expertise to execute the project from a lead technical position. Current City staffing levels do not allow for the necessary resources to be allocated to this project. If the City were to take on the lead technical as well as all other project management roles for the proposed study, this would result in having to delay the start up and placing other projects on hold. The City, and HCA and will sign a Memorandum of Agreement on the scope of work before the start of the study. This project is a mutually beneficial collaboration and partnership opportunity for the City and
HCA. Any outside consultants retained by the HCA to assist with this work would also be parties to the Memorandum of Agreement.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**Alternative 1:** City of Hamilton takes on full project management responsibilities of the proposed Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Class Environmental Study

Under this alternative, the City of Hamilton would have to allocate the necessary staffing resources to undertake the project. The financial implications would not change.

This alternative is not recommended. *Current Strategic Planning staffing levels are not conducive for a full project management role for this project. The HCA has the technical expertise to be the technical lead for the project and provide in depth analysis into finding remedial solutions that addresses the environmental, social, and economic and safety concerns. Moving forward with the HCA as a technical lead and the City as primarily in the role of financial project manager would allow for immediate implementation of the study process and not delaying any future projects that may be required.*

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

**Financial Implications:**

Funding ($250,000) was approved for this study in the 2007 Rates Budget (Project ID: 5180755701, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Flood and Erosion Control).

**Staffing Implications:**

Sufficient staffing levels, even with the existing vacancies, exist within the Strategic Planning section to support this work as a member of the technical advisory committee. Sufficient staffing levels do not currently exist within the Strategic Planning section to lead and project manage this study at this time without delaying other ongoing or upcoming Strategic Planning projects.

**Legal Implications:**

The Study planning process may make recommendations which lead to undertakings that are subject to the Environmental Assessment Act. In order to meet the intent of the Act, the study will be conducted using the Conservation Ontario Class EA process. The City will investigate possible co-proponent opportunities to further satisfy the Municipal Class EA requirements. Municipal undertakings such as road improvements, stormwater, water and wastewater projects are subject to Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. The Act allows for the approval of Class Environmental Assessments and the municipality has the option of following the planning process set out in the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2000 as amended in 2007). A Public Consultation plan which meets the requirements of the Class EA process will be incorporated into the study procedure.
POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

The Public Works Strategic Plan Vision for 2017 would be a document which affects this proposal. This project would be aligned with the Communities Vision driver under the priority to be a leader in the “greening” and stewardship of the City by addressing flooding concerns and functionality of watercourse channels and aesthetics of the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek Watersheds.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Public consultation is one of the key components of the Conservation Ontario Class EA and Municipal Class EA processes. Points of formal contact will made with relevant agencies, stakeholder groups and the public during the course of this Class EA Study to: i) provide notification of the Study Initiation and Public Information Centre; and ii) review the problem being addressed and preliminary analysis and evaluation of the alternatives at the Public Information Centre. Upon completion of this study report, a notification of completion of the Project File Report will be provided with details regarding the opportunity to review the report.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and 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 addressing impacts/issues related to flood and erosion within the watersheds.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☒ Yes □ No
Ecological function and the natural heritage system are protected.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☒ Yes □ No
By determining immediate costs; future costs and cost-benefit of addressing the flood and erosion impacts.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☒ Yes □ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☒ Yes □ No
The creation of a respectful, desirable and supportive workplace.