



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Peter Marra, P.Eng. – Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date of Report: November 30, 2020

Report Number: PW-34-20

Subject: Turkey Creek Watershed – Various Master Drainage Study Updates

Recommendation

That the report of the Director of Public Works dated November 30, 2020 (PW-34-20) regarding the Turkey Creek watershed and the various master drainage studies BE RECEIVED.

That Council CONCUR that administration continue to work through the EA process with our neighboring municipalities which may include the issuance of a formal objection to the MECP if so required.

That Council DIRECT administration to forward report PW-34-20 to the ERCA Board and request that further information be provided to the ERCA Board and Town of LaSalle Council.

Report

This report is being provided to Council for informational purposes.

In April/May of 2020, the Town of LaSalle became aware of the advance stages of several master drainage studies/environmental assessments (EA) occurring within the Town of Tecumseh and the City of Windsor in the Turkey Creek watershed area. All these studies' outlet through various tributaries into Turkey Creek and flow through LaSalle to the Detroit River.

There are two studies of interest, one in Tecumseh in the Oldcastle area discharging into the Wolfe Drain, and ultimately into the Turkey Creek. The other study covers a large portion of the City of Windsor, with some of the study area discharging into the Grand Marais Drain which ultimately transitions into the Turkey Creek.

Both above noted studies are being completed by the respective municipalities, as the proponent, under the provision of the environmental assessment (EA) act. The EA process is a public process, which allows for the Town of LaSalle to be part of the studies and provide comments.

Town of Tecumseh – Oldcastle Study

As noted, this study lies in the Town of Tecumseh, in the Oldcastle area. The Town of Tecumseh is looking at providing for improvements to the primarily industrial area in Oldcastle to provide for increased level of service for their existing storm drainage system. This study covers a large area in Oldcastle, which only a small area discharges through LaSalle and the other areas in this study drains elsewhere, not effecting LaSalle.

The area that drains through LaSalle, discharges into the Wolfe Drain, travels along the Herb Grey Parkway, which then discharges into the Cahill Drain, which crosses under the Parkway and eventually traverses through the Cahill Drain in LaSalle which ultimately discharges in Turkey Creek in the vicinity of Vince Marcotte Park.

As the runoff traverses through all the various tributaries, not only is there the presence of Tecumseh/Oldcastle runoff, various parts of the City of Windsor also discharge throughout this system. What is discharging into this system in Windsor also forms part of the City of Windsor Sewer Master Plan Study, which will be discussed later in this report.

This very drainage system, that is identified above in the Oldcastle study, is the subject of a separate master drainage study being completed by the Town of LaSalle within the Howard/Bouffard area. This Howard/Bouffard study will be discussed later in this report as well.

The Town of LaSalle has expressed our concerns to the Town of Tecumseh through their Oldcastle study, and the Town of Tecumseh and LaSalle are continuing to work through these concerns to try and find a way to move forward.

City of Windsor – Sewer Master Plan Study

This City of Windsor Study covers a large part of the City of Windsor from the east end right through the core and into south Windsor. This study commenced early in 2018 and at that time, the City and their consultant issued the notice of study commencement. In 2018, the Town of LaSalle issued a letter asking to be involved in any of this study that would affect and drainage through LaSalle. This was done, in 2018, because LaSalle recognized the magnitude of this study and was only interested in the areas that would affect LaSalle and not interested in the other areas in the City that drained elsewhere.

May 2020, was the first point of contact from the City of Windsor and their consultant with LaSalle. At this stage, the study was in the almost finalized stage with recommended solutions. The Town of LaSalle immediately recognized concerns with various reports being utilized as part of this study with respect to downstream concerns in LaSalle, particularly the flood lines and flows under the extreme events in the Turkey Creek. LaSalle submitted our concerns to the City and their consultant in May 2020 stating such.

As noted, in May 2020, LaSalle issued our concerns to the City of Windsor and their consultant. LaSalle continued to issue various concerns throughout the remainder of 2020 as we became aware of additional information from reviewing the multitude of various other historical studies and other relative historical information.

In July 2020, the City of Windsor and their consultant presented the final solutions to Windsor City Council without addressing any of LaSalle's concerns.

At this stage of Windsor's sewer master plan, they are initiating the notice of study completion through the environmental assessment act, and to date, LaSalle's concerns still yet to be addressed satisfactorily.

There have been several correspondences back and forth between LaSalle and the City and at this stage, LaSalle's only course of action is to issue a formal objection through the EA process to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Through this process, the MECP, and, through the Minister of the Environment will render a decision on LaSalle's concerns. It should be noted that MECP and ERCA have been copied on the correspondence regarding the concerns from the Town of LaSalle.

Also, part of this study, LaSalle recognized the overlap and inconsistencies between the City of Windsor, the Town of Tecumseh and the Town of LaSalle studies and initiated a conference meeting with the three municipalities and the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA). This will be discussed later in this report with respect to the Larger Turkey Creek Watershed Study.

Town of LaSalle – Howard/Bouffard Master Drainage Study

As Council is aware, the Town embarked on a master drainage study within the Howard/Bouffard area. This area is within the Canard River watershed, however, is currently greatly affected with overflows coming from the Turkey Creek Watershed. This study is also being completed under the environmental assessment process and involves a public input component.

This study commenced in 2018 and was expected to be completed in and around the summer of 2020. However, the pandemic has delayed the completion of this study along with the relative information contained within this report from various other studies underway.

Because this study is greatly affected by an external watershed overflowing into the area, and primarily is a result of flows and runoff generated outside of LaSalle, almost all of the landowners in the area have questioned how will the solution be paid for by these external municipalities. It is for this reason; LaSalle has paused this study to better understand the external affects and responsibility for contributions toward the solution to deal with existing drainage conditions.

Larger Turkey Creek Watershed Study

As discussed earlier, in May/June of 2020, after LaSalle did an overall review of the various active studies and various historical studies, LaSalle requested and initiated a meeting with all three municipalities and ERCA.

At this meeting, the discussion occurred around the historical piecemeal/inconsistent approach of modeling efforts within the Turkey Creek watershed, and the decision was made to have an overarching, comprehensive study/model developed. This new study would once and for all establish the fundamentals within Turkey Creek watershed.

This was decided that ERCA would take the lead on this study with input from the various three municipal partners. In fact, ERCA reported to their board in September 2020, on this initiative. To date, proposal have been received and LaSalle continues to work with ERCA and the other municipal partners to see this larger study come to fruition.

The essence of this larger study is to provide more accurate information within the Turkey Creek watershed relative to flows, flood lines, modeling approaches and assumptions, affects to adjacent watersheds, quantify flows, and assist in identifying municipal assessments, etc. Pending the result of the larger study, there are most likely several additional report/reviews too follow.

ERCA and the three municipal partners, feel strongly that this larger Turkey Creek watershed study will better inform ERCA, LaSalle, Tecumseh and Windsor in their efforts to work cooperatively in addressing drainage concerns regionally through the various systems to better protect our respective residents in a safe and efficient manner.

LaSalle, has paused our master drainage study efforts, pending this larger study and LaSalle continue to work with our municipal neighbors to assist them in recognizing the effects on the downstream drainage systems in LaSalle through their other drainage study efforts.

Summary of Concerns

The following is a brief summary of two major concerns that LaSalle has with the currently underway EA studies in our neighboring municipalities;

1. For the Town of Tecumseh study, it is known that they are proposing to increase outflows from the Oldcastle area as part of their solution. It is known that the immediate receiving drain can handle it, but as it continues to transvers through the system and into LaSalle, this becomes a major concern to LaSalle as indications are that the receiving drains in LaSalle may be at or above previously approved capacities;
2. For the City of Windsor sewer master plan, one of the background reports that are being relied on, was completed in March 2019. This 2019 report revisited the hydrologic modeling for Grand Marais Drain/Turkey Creek. This report has shown at Front Road, where Turkey Creek pass under Front Road, the flows have increased from approx. 73cms to 100cms an approx. 37% increase. And that the flood lines have went up, from the regulated elevation of 175.11 to 176.74 a 1.63m increase in flood level. This is a major concern for LaSalle. This 2019 reports shows consistent increase in flows all the way through the Turkey Creek/Grand Marais Drain with an approx. increase on average of approx. 70% throughout.

To date, these have been clearly expressed by LaSalle with no form of an adequate response to alleviate these concerns.

Consultations

This process and concerns have been discussed internally between the Public Works Department, the Development and Strategic Initiative Department and the CAO.

LaSalle also continue to be actively involved in the EA process with our neighboring municipalities

Financial Implications

None currently.

Prepared By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Marra', is positioned below the 'Prepared By:' heading.

Peter Marra, P.Eng. – Director of Public Works

Link to Strategic Goals

	Enhancing organizational excellence
yes	Sustain strong public services and infrastructure
	Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town
	Grow and diversify the local economy
yes	Build on our high-quality of life

Communications

yes	Not applicable
	Website
	Social Media
	News Release
	Local Newspaper
	Bids & Tenders
	Notification pursuant to the Planning Act

Notifications

Name	Address	Email

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	PW-34-20 Turkey Creek Watershed - various master drainage study updates.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Dec 2, 2020

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



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia