

Report to Council

Report Title:	Tile Drain Loan Application - Concession 15 Brant		
Prepared By:	Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk and Stephen Cobean, Drainage Superintendent		
Department:	Drainage		
Date:	August 27, 2024		
Report Number:	DRAIN2024-03	File Number:	C11DR, F11TI
Attachments:	Tile Drain Loan Application – May 23, 2024 Tile Drainage Plan Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Approval/Permit Tile Drain Loan Repayment Schedule		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number DRAIN2024-03 - Tile Drain Loan Application - Concession 15 Brant, prepared by Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk and Stephen Cobean, Drainage Superintendent and in doing so approves a By-Law coming forward to accept the application and issue debentures for the loan.

Report:

Background:

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) offer a Tile Drain Loan Program which provides loans to agricultural property owners to help them finance tile drainage projects.

In accordance with the OMAFRA program guidelines, and the *Tile Drainage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. T.8*, Council must accept or refuse the tile drainage application.

Analysis:

On May 23, 2024 the Municipality of Brockton received the attached application for a Tile Drain Loan located along Concession 15 in the former Township of Brant.

The property owner (applicant) would like to install a new systematic tile drainage on their property and outlet it into the existing watercourse that drains to Sideroad 30 which then crosses under the road and flows west into Vesta Creek. The applicant has existing drains that flow into the watercourse on their property, but wishes to replace them with a new systematic tile drainage system that can be expanded to drain an increased area of their property. The applicant also wants to clean out the portion of the downstream watercourse on their property which flows to Sideroad 30 as well.

Drainage Superintendent, Stephen Cobean, inspected the property to ensure that the work can be completed. Due to the watercourse being located within Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's screening area, the applicant was required to contact Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority to obtain approval to conduct drainage works along the lands.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has approved the tile drainage request, issuing a permit to allow the applicant to install systematic tile drainage adjacent to the wetland, with one outlet to a watercourse, with related excavation, filling and grading. The applicant must stay 10 feet away from the wetland boundary and not remove trees within the boundary, also ensuring that materials and debris do not enter the watercourse or wetland.

Tile drain loans must be repaid annually for a ten (10) year term. Landowners are eligible to receive a loan up to 75% of the value of the tile drainage work. The program's interest rate is fixed for the full term of the loan, and is calculated annually.

The Municipality collects loan repayments from the landowner and remits them to OMAFRA. Staff have calculated the loan payment schedule for the landowner for this application, and the draft repayment schedule is attached for Council's information. If this application was approved, the schedule would be attached to the By-Law.

Staff recommend that Council accept the tile drain loan application.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The applicant is requesting a loan of \$50,000 to cover the remaining 75% cost of the drainage works. As included in the repayment schedule, the applicant would be required to pay approximately \$6,793.40 in annual installments, plus interest and principal repayments. The applicant would continue to pay the fixed interest rates in accordance with the repayment schedule for ten (10) years, which would be completed by October 2034; however, the loan can be repaid in full at any time.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk



Stephen Cobean, Drainage Superintendent

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer