

Report to Council

Report Title: Truax Dam Update

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Administration

Date: April 9, 2019

Report Number: CAO2019-09 **File Number:** C11AD

Attachments: Information Session Presentation

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2019-09 – Truax Dam Update, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

As Council is aware, The Lake Huron Fishing Club has received full funding from Bruce Power to complete the partial removal of the Truax Dam on the Saugeen River in Walkerton and we are working with these partners on removal of the dam. The existing dam currently acts as a barrier to migration for some community fish species and the dam is in need of repair.

Following a public meeting on October 5, 2016, where the public had the opportunity to discuss the two options of partial removal or complete removal of the dam, Council decided to proceed with partial removal. At its January 22, 2018 meeting, Council passed By-Law 2018-006 - Lake Huron Fishing Club Truax Dam Memorandum of Understanding.

A Public Information Meeting was held on March 26, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Bruce County Administration Building. Jeff Graham, Professional Engineer from GSS Engineering Ltd. was available for questions as were members of The Lake Huron Fishing Club, Bruce Power and staff. The information session covered project history, project details and timelines related to the partial removal of the Truax Dam in Walkerton.

The project will see the dam structure partially removed, the area rehabilitated to a more natural state, address Brockton's liability concerns with the dam and provide improved river access and public use at the site. Overall, the project will benefit the local fish population by allowing free fish migration to pass through the area. It will also improve water quality and create a healthier ecosystem where fish can thrive. Work is scheduled for the summer of 2019 pending agency approvals.

Analysis:

Jeff Graham, Professional Engineer from GSS Engineering Ltd. will be providing a final update to Council at the meeting. Members of The Lake Huron Fishing Club will be in attendance. Representatives from Bruce Power, The Lake Huron Fishing Club, Jeff Graham and the Director of Operations and myself have been having regular calls throughout the fall of 2018 and into 2019 to move this project forward.

The Information Session provided residents the opportunity to hear the history of the project and learn what work and studies have been done to verify concerns regarding water velocities, sediment transport, ice jams etc. There were approximately 40 people in attendance at the Information sessions. Only two written comments have been received since the meeting one supporting the removal and one commenting on the ice effects; bedload; and dam failure as well as ecological considerations and heritage value.

At this point we still await approvals from SVCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. DFO approvals have been received. Due to SVCA concerns with the steep eroding cliff downstream of the dam which is eroding now but has the potential for additional erosion, the application for the partial removal cannot be approved at the SVCA staff level and the decision has been elevated to a Section 28 (3) Hearing. This Hearing will take place on April 12, 2019 and Jeff Graham will represent the Municipality with staff supporting.

On November 5, 2018 Council conditionally accepted the tender of Moorefield Excavating Ltd. at a cost of \$550,000 plus H.S.T. for the removal of the Truax Dam based on final approvals and additional funding from Bruce Power. Bruce Power has been a very generous partner and is committed to this project and has provided the additional funding required to complete the project. As noted above we still await permit approval but are very close to having everything in place for construction in August and September 2019 during low flow levels. Moorefield Excavating has been patient and has extended the final tender acceptance date as we work through the permitting process.

Following the Section 28 (3) Hearing we hope to proceed with the tender acceptance by-law coming forward to accept the tender of Moorefield Excavating Ltd. in the amount of \$550,000 for partial removal of the Truax Dam.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer