

Report to Council

Report Title: Catherine Street and Peter Street Stormwater Outlet Spill

Prepared By: Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations

Department: Operations

Date: May 12, 2020

Report Number: PW2020-11 **File Number:** C11PW

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2020-11 - Catherine Street and Peter Street Stormwater Outlet Spill, prepared by Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations, for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

On Saturday April 4th at 12:30 p.m., Brockton Municipal staff were contacted by the Spills Action Centre, a division of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP), regarding a complaint about an unidentified liquid material release, likely petroleum based (i.e. oil or fuel), that was exiting the Catherine Street and Peter Street municipal storm water outlet and entering the Saugeen River.

Analysis:

Municipal Staff arrived on site on Saturday April 4th, 2020 to investigate the reported spill. An absorbent boom was put out across the mouth of the storm outlet and staff awaited further direction from the MOECP. An Owen Sound MOECP Officer arrived on scene later that afternoon and a contractor (GFL Environmental Inc.) was called in to assess, mitigate and clean up the spill.

GFL Environmental Inc. cleaned up the majority of the spill in the early hours of April 5th, 2020. GFL Environmental Inc. installed a larger boom across the river, skimmed the river, vacuumed out and cleaned the two localized catch basins and associated pipes, and placed an additional boom sock in the stormwater pipes to help absorb any additional petroleum liquid release. GFL Environmental Inc. was called back later that day and again on April 6th and 7th for additional cleanup and investigation into the source of the spill. On April 7th, MOECP's direction was to monitor the situation and to remove and replace the absorbent pads and socks as needed, as there had been no further signs of river contamination.

Municipal Staff and GFL Environmental Inc. attempted to locate the source of the contamination/ spill throughout the process by opening surrounding catch basin covers and by sending various cameras throughout the stormwater pipe system. No source or polluter was found.

Staff continued to monitor the situation on a regular basis and had daily contact with the MOECP Officer. On April 13th, Municipal staff were directed by the MOECP to remove the river boom, socks and pads as there had been no further detectable releases from the Stormwater system into the Saugeen River.

Staff ensured that the MOECP and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority were updated regularly throughout the process.

The cost for the spill cleanup and investigation totaled \$45,598.70 + HST (\$51,526.53). Municipal Staff have inquired with our insurance provider to see if our policy would cover the costs, however it has been determined by our policy provider that they will not cover the costs. These costs were not included in the municipal budget and unfortunately the municipality does not currently have any Environmental Emergency response reserve funds to cover these expenses.

The amount of petroleum based liquid that entered the Saugeen River cannot be determined. A little bit of oil can go a long way in a body of water. GFL Environmental did however vacuum up approximately 20,000 Liters of contaminated water throughout the process between the stormwater catch basin flushes and skimming the top of the Saugeen River within the river boom catchment.

The environmental impact of the spill on the Saugeen River ecosystem and watershed can also not be precisely measured. The Saugeen River moves very quickly and is a big body of water. The rainbow sheen on the water dissipated 50 to 60 yards downstream, likely due to simple dilution.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | No |
| • 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? | N/A |
| • 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

The expenses incurred to clean up the spill in the Saugeen River and inside of the stormwater pipes and catch basin equals \$45,598.70 + HST. These expenses are currently allocated to the General Government department and will be at the expense of the Municipality since the source of the pollution was undetermined.

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, cursive script.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Furtney', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gregg Furtney, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer