

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.	46-99-0096
DATE	19 November 1999
TO/DEST.	Co-ordinator Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee
FROM/EXP.	Planning and Development Approvals Commissioner
SUBJECT/OBJET	EASTERN ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT STUDY

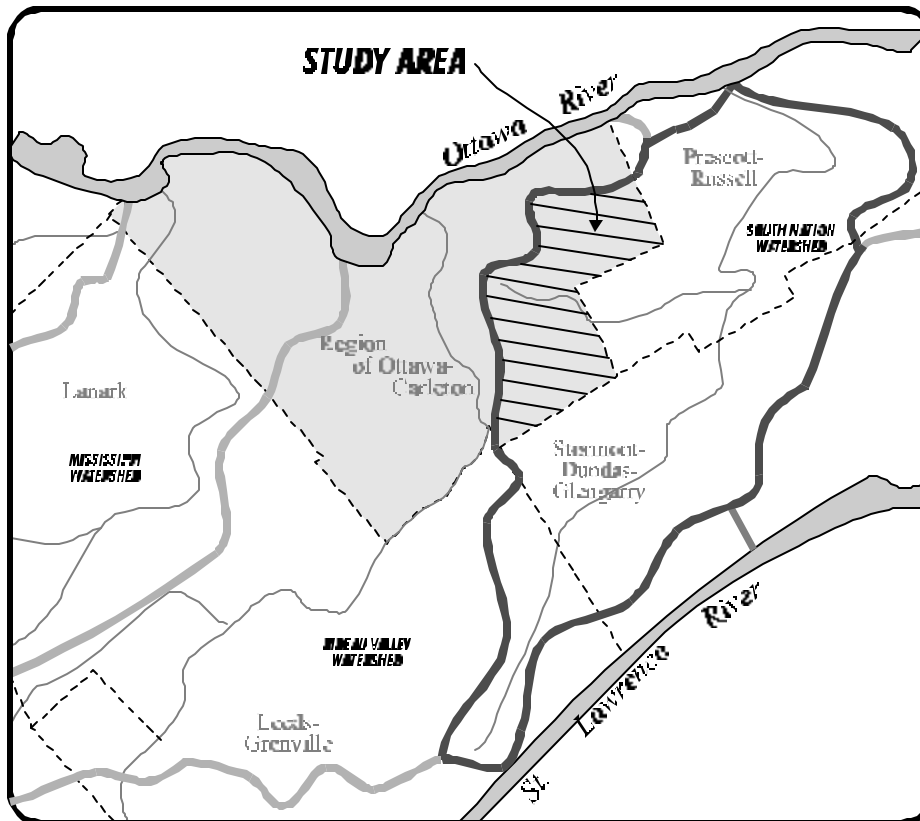
DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee approve:

- 1. the appointment of CH2M Gore & Storrie Limited, Ottawa, to undertake the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study for the portion of the South Nation watershed located within the Region of Ottawa-Carleton at a cost not to exceed \$110,500;**
- 2. the allocation of \$20,000 to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to complete the GIS data compilation and co-ordination components of the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study;**
- 3. the appointment of MHPM Project Managers Inc., Ottawa, as the Study Co-ordinator for the Regional Study area at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.**

BACKGROUND

On October 14, 1998, Regional Council approved the Region's participation with the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (P&R) and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SD&G) in their groundwater and surface water resource management pilot project for the portion of the South Nation watershed within the Region (Planning and Environment Committee Report No. 14). This pilot project is now referred to as the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study (EOWRMS). Funding requests to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to assist with the EOWRMS were concurrently approved by Council.



The purpose of the EOWRMS is to develop an information base on surface and groundwater resources on a watershed basis, as well as to identify potential cost-effective options for water and wastewater infrastructure in order to improve water resource management, planning and development in eastern Ontario. The study partners include the AAFC, MOE, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the United Counties of P&R and SD&G, the South Nation River Conservation Authority and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority. The MOE is providing funding through its Water Protection Program and the AAFC is providing both significant technical and financial contributions. The study is to be completed by the end of the year 2000.

Currently, the EOWRMS is being co-ordinated by the United Counties of P&R and SD&G within their planning areas. The EOWRMS is being undertaken in three phases. The first phase has been divided into two sub-phases. Phase 1A, which has been completed for the areas within the United Counties of P&R and SD&G, focused on information needs, existing information, literature review and identification of information gaps. Limited additional work is required to complete Phase 1A for the Regional study area. Phase 1B will assemble the information and fill the information gaps. The second phase involves analysis of the information. The third phase focuses on the development of resource management tools. The remainder of the EOWRMS, namely, Phases 1B, 2 and 3, has recently been awarded to the engineering consulting firm of CH2M Gore & Storrie (CG&S).

Approval of this report will permit the extension of the EOWRMS contract to include the portion of the South Nation watershed located within the Region. This will provide the Region with an excellent opportunity to better develop an understanding of the Region's water resources for the most easterly part of the Region, as well as creating a proven framework for future water resources studies for the remaining areas of Ottawa-Carleton. Recent discussions and meetings with the United Counties of P&R and SD&G, the study partners, and CG&S has indicated that participation of the Region in the EOWRMS will be also benefit the original funding partners and provide a more complete assessment of the watershed area.

DISCUSSION

Three consultants were short-listed through a pre-qualification process co-ordinated by the United Counties of P&R and SD&G, together with the study partners, to prepare detailed proposals to complete the EOWRMS within the planning areas of the United Counties of P&R and SD&G. Each of the three pre-qualified consultants presented their proposals to the United Counties of P&R and SD&G and the study partners on October 25, 1999. Each of the presentations were evaluated based on established criteria and a scoring system. CG&S obtained the highest score and was, therefore, deemed the successful consultant.

To conduct the EOWRMS, CG&S has assembled a multi-disciplinary team that possesses the required level of experience in all elements of the EOWRMS. CG&S proposal highlights included:

- Project team continuity with Phase 1A;
- Thorough understanding of the study objectives and of technical expertise and level of effort required to satisfy each objective;
- A flexible work plan that acknowledges the importance of public participation and recognizes the similarities and differences throughout the large study area; and
- An approach that is based on the premise that there is a need to bridge the gap between theory and practice, between policy and implementation, and between planning and engineering.

CG&S has provided the Region with a preliminary work plan and cost estimate to include the portion of the South Nation watershed located within the Region in the EOWRMS. This is reflected in Recommendation 1.

The United Counties of P&R and SD&G have each retained the services of an independent study co-ordinator to assist with the administration and management elements of the project. The two co-ordinators work closely together to ensure consistency and continuity between the two planning areas. In order to be consistent with the established administration and management structure, and to facilitate integration and co-ordination with the other two planning areas, it is recommended that the Region also appoint an independent study co-ordinator. The firm of MHPM Project Managers Inc. (MHPM), is currently acting in this role on behalf of the United County of P&R and has assumed this responsibility since the beginning of the study. MHMP specializes in the management of large projects and has been highly recommended by the United County of P&R. Therefore, it is recommended that MHPM also be

appointed as the independent study co-ordinator for the Regional study area. This is reflected in Recommendation 3.

CONSULTATION

A thorough public consultation program is a major component of this study. Steering Committees for the three planning areas, along with a Technical Advisory Group which includes a representative from the Region, will be established to ensure that the stakeholder agencies have adequate input into the study. A comprehensive communications plan has been developed to facilitate the public consultation program to provide sufficient opportunity for stakeholder input and the analytical review of ideas, reports, and outputs throughout the course of the study. The communications plan will be executed in both official languages and includes the following components: newsletters, web site, surveys, open houses, workshops, focus group sessions, agency and public meetings, and the preparation of communications reports.

COMPATIBILITY WITH THE REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

The Region has significant interest in ensuring our groundwater resources are protected, including:

- the Regional Medical Officer of Health is mandated to protect public health;
- the Region is wholly or partially responsible for the public water supply and sewage collection and treatment;
- the Region establishes the planning framework within which development decisions are made and is responsible for implementing the Provincial Policy Statement, issued under the Planning Act;
- the Region is responsible wholly or partially for corrections to private wells and sewage disposal systems, in the case of failures (for example, Carlsbad Springs).

The Region's role and responsibilities for managing and protecting water resources has been transcribed into policies within the Region's Official Plan. The Region's participation in the EOWRMS will assist in implementing a number of the water resources and rural servicing policies of the Official Plan. Specifically, it will assist in fulfilling or supporting the following policies within the South Nation watershed area of the Region:

Policy 5.2.1.1 Aquifer Management Strategy
 Policy 5.2.6 Protection of Groundwater Source
 Policy 5.3 1 Watershed Plans
 Policy 5.3.2 Subwatershed Plans
 Policy 10.3 Water and Wastewater Services in the Rural Area

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION

Regional Council has previously approved the funding and a budget allocation to the EOWRMS in October of 1998. The partnership with the counties of P&D, SD&G, AAFC, and the MOE will enable the development of a water resources information system for the South Nation watershed through a cost

sharing agreement that will be mutually beneficial to all partners and stakeholders within the watershed. This partnership will be more cost efficient compared with the Region undertaking the study alone and will provide a consistent policy context for the entire watershed area.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTERNAL FUNDING

As directed in the October 1998, resolution of Regional Council, staff have applied to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Water Protection Fund to seek a cash contribution to the study. Based on the program's funding formula, the Region would be entitled to approximately ten percent of CG&S's budget should our application be approved.

The AAFC is a significant funding partner and contributor to the EOWRMS. Their role is to assist in the compilation of the GIS data and to co-ordinate the GIS component of the study. The cost of these services is separate from the consultant's contract. However, the AAFC provides fifty percent of the funding for this work. The cost of the AAFC's services is \$40,000.00 with the Region's contribution equating to \$20,000.00.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	\$
Approved Budget to Date	900,000
Total Paid and Committed	<u>(427,092)</u>
Balance Available	472,908
THIS REQUEST	<u>(145,500)</u>
Balance Remaining	<u>327,408</u>

Funds are available in the 1999 Capital Budget, Account No. 912-33420 (SAP Order No. 900005) Studies - Servicing and Economic Analysis (Reference Page No. 58-59).

*Approved by Pamela Sweet for
Nick Tunnacliffe, MCIP, RPP*

JP/bs/sm

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Funds are available as indicated

*Approved by T. Fedec
on behalf of the Finance Commissioner*