

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2024  
**Department:** Engineering & Public Works  
**Report No.:** EPW-2024-37  
**Submitted by:** Steve Morriss, Drainage Superintendent  
**Prepared by:** Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works  
**Approved by:** Trish McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer

**SUBJECT:** Thornton Drain 2024 – Report Consideration Meeting

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**RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report EPW-2024-37 Thornton Drain 2024 – Report Consideration Meeting for information, and further;**

**THAT: Council adopt the Engineers Report for the Thornton Drain 2024, and give first and second reading to provisional By-law No. 40-24 for the project.**

**BACKGROUND:**

A request for municipal drain improvement under section 78(1) of the Drainage Act was received by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on March 24, 2022. Council accepted the request on April 4, 2022 and appointed Spriet Associates Ltd. to prepare the engineer's report.

The required on-site meeting was held on November 16, 2022 with the affected landowners to discuss the request where information was exchanged at that time and through later discussions. The landowner requesting the drain improvement asked the engineer to explore relocating the drain to accommodate the recent severances to the lower southern property. Due to the condition of a neighboring Berko Drain 1968 which shares in the watershed area, the requesting landowner asked that the engineer look into a repair for this outlet and include it as part of the project.

The engineer conducted investigations of the existing drain conditions on May 12, 2023 with further data collected on May 17, 2023. Investigations confirmed that the existing drain is in good working condition. It was further confirmed that the neighbouring Berko Drain outlets into a gully bank and is experiencing erosion issues and would benefit from some improvements.

On August 2, 2023 the municipality held an informal public meeting to present the preliminary design and cost distribution prepared by the engineers. Further input by the affected landowner was provided at that time and at later dates where then the engineers were instructed to finalize the proposed works.

## **COMMENTS:**

Municipal drains have been a fixture of rural Ontario's infrastructure since the 1800's. Most municipal drains were constructed to improve the drainage of agricultural land by serving as the discharge point for private agricultural tile drainage systems. However, they also remove excess water collected by roadside ditches, residential lots, institutions, industrial lands, commercial lands and any other properties in rural areas. Drains are a vital component of the local infrastructure. Without them, many areas of the rural area would be subjected to regular flooding, reduced production from agricultural land and increased public health risks.

Most municipal drains are constructed on private lands and each drain is adopted under a By-Law when established. The Drainage Act provides access for drainage to have a legal outlet. Downstream landowners must accept flow of water from upstream landowners and must not impede or block the flow of water. As a result, downstream drains are larger and deeper on abutting property owners. Upstream landowners must contribute to the costs of downstream landowners for the allowance of a legal outlet. The landowners including road authorities (municipalities) and public utilities (Hydro One, Union Gas), within the defined drainage watershed, contribute for the construction of the municipal drain and the on-going maintenance of the drain.

## **CONSULTATION:**

This report was reviewed in consultation with:

- Drainage Superintendent
- Manager of Public Works
- Spriet Associates Ltd.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- Schedule of Net Assessment included in the report.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc are supported by reliable, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Spriet Associates Ltd. Report and Plans on the Thornton Drain 2024
- Provision By-Law 40-24 – Thornton Drain 2024