

Meeting Date: September 16, 2024
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2024-65
Prepared by: Steve Morriss, Drainage Superintendent
Submitted by: Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Tender Award – Municipal Drain Maintenance - Cobban Drain Branch 1 1994**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report EPW-2024-65 Tender Award – Municipal Drain Maintenance – Cobban Drain Branch 1 1994 for information, and further;

THAT: Council award the Cobban Drain Branch 1 1994 drain maintenance tender to H.E. Construction Inc. in the amount of \$20,746.60 excluding HST.

BACKGROUND:

A request for drain maintenance was received by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc on July 10, 2024 by an affected landowner for the Cobban Drain Branch 1 1994. The drain is approximately 2230m of open ditch.

Our internal records suggest that this drain has not ever received a full drain cleanout since its original construction date. Investigations determined that the drain has heavy overgrowth of vegetation along the banks and slopes and the ditch bottom has medium to heavy sediment levels which are hindering the overall operation of the drain and private field tiling.

An informal public meeting was held on September 5, 2024 to discuss the project limits and to document any comments received by landowners. Landowners and municipal staff agreed that this project is best for all to commence in the late fall 2024 after the fall harvest has been completed.

COMMENTS:

The contractor will be responsible for the following items:

- Brushing and grubbing
- 2236 meters of full ditch bottom cleanout to the designed grades and elevations.

- Excess material to spread and levelled evenly along drain banks.
- Private farm crossings to be dredged and flushed
- Public road culverts be dredged and flushed

All environmental authorizations have been received from the Department of Fisheries and Conservation Authority. All work is expected to be completed no later than March 14, 2025. The tender was posted publicly on Bids & Tenders website on July 24, 24, 2024 and closed on August 8, 2024 with six (6) bids submitted. Below are the results excluding HST.

Cobban Drain Branch 1 1994 – Open Ditch Maintenance	
Vendor	Price Excluding HST
H. E. Construction Inc.	\$20,746.60
McNally Excavating	\$28,000.00
Van Bree Drainage and Bulldozing Limited	\$29,786.30
JLH Excavating Inc	\$31,672.00
Murray Mills Excavating & Trucking (Sarnia) Ltd.	\$34,230.00
Ernie Herrington Excavating, Trucking and Sanitation Ltd.	\$45,253.46

H.E. Construction has not been previously used by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. Staff contacted all the references included in the submitted tender package and received positive feedback regarding the contractor’s ability to perform quality work.

Staff recommends that Council award the tender to the lowest bidder H.E. Construction Inc.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager of Public Works
- St. Clair Regional Conservation Authority
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

All costs associated with this maintenance project will be assessed pro-rata at the expense of all affected upstream lands and roads assessed as described in the Schedule D Assessment for Maintenance in the Cobban Drain – Branch 1 1994 report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- **Local Infrastructure and Capital Investment:** Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc will be supported by reliable, financially responsible, and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Cobban Drain – Branch 1 1994 – Report – Spriet Associates Ltd.
- Cobban Drain – Branch 1 1994 – Plan and Profile – Spriet Associates Ltd.
- By-Law 31-95 - Cobban Drain – Branch 1 1994
- Cobban Drain – Branch 1 1994 - Presentation Graphic for Public Meeting