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**REPORT TITLE: Contract Extension for Peel 2041 Municipal Comprehensive Review Environmental Screening and Scoped Subwatershed Study**

**FROM: Andrew Farr, Interim Commissioner of Public Works**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That additional funding of \$224,600 for a total budget of \$1,356,600 (excluding applicable taxes) from Development Charges Reserve R3580 be provided to Capital Project 19-7730 to cover adjustments to the scope of work for the Scoped Subwatershed Study component of the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study to address additional population and employment growth allocated to Peel by the Province as expected by June 2020;**

**And further, that the contract (Document 2019-145P) for the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion - Environmental Screening and Scoped Subwatershed Study, between the Region of Peel and Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, a Division of Wood Canada Limited, be extended in the estimated amount of \$307,600 (excluding applicable taxes) for a total contract commitment of \$1,194,459 (excluding applicable taxes) to complete the above referenced study under Capital Project 19-7730, in accordance with Procurement By-law 30-2018, as amended.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- As part of the Peel 2041 Official Plan and Municipal Comprehensive Review, technical background work is underway to support the required Settlement Boundary Area Expansion component.
  - Document 2019-145P was awarded in 2019 to Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, a Division of Wood Canada Limited, to complete the Environmental Screening and Scoped Subwatershed Study for the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion.
  - An expanded study scope is needed to address new forecasts for additional growth in Peel expected to be released by the Province in June 2020 and accommodate the uncertainty into the later phases of the work around the amount of land needed for settlement expansion.
  - Council approval is recommended for the additional funding and an extension of contract to complete the study in accordance with Procurement By-law 30-2018.
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# **Contract Extension for Peel 2041 Municipal Comprehensive Review Environmental Screening and Scoped Subwatershed Study**

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

In September 2019, Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, a Division of Wood Canada Limited (Wood), was retained by the Region to undertake an Environmental Screening and Scoped Subwatershed Study as a technical background study for the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study (SABE). The SABE is required to conform to the Growth Plan, 2019 as settlement boundary expansions, undertaken by the Region, must demonstrate how impacts to the natural environment including water resources will be avoided, minimized or mitigated.

The study has two phases: an environmental screening phase (Phase 1) and a scoped sub-watershed study (Phase 2). Through the SABE, the results of the screening and scoped sub-watershed study will form part of the planning justification submitted to support the Regional Official Plan Amendment that will be brought forward to implement the settlement expansion. These studies will also set the basis for a future local municipal official plan amendment, led by the Town of Caledon, supported by further detailed subwatershed studies building on the Region's work.

In Phase 1 of the study, the environmental features and systems identified through the screening exercise have been integrated with the findings from the overall SABE planning study led by Hemson Consulting. This work identified constraints, needs and opportunities and helped to define a Focus Study Area (FSA) and subsequently will be used to recommend a preliminary settlement area boundary expansion in the next phase of the SABE Study.

A draft Phase 1 screening report has been completed and is available to the public. Work completed for Phase 2, as it relates to water resources and ecological systems, will be done in three parts: (1) characterization of the broader subwatershed areas associated with the urban expansion areas (Part A); (2) an impact assessment based on land-use change and infrastructure scenarios; and, (3) an implementation plan (Part C) outlining recommended protection, enhancement, and implementation to manage environmental impacts.

The sub-watershed study was initially scoped to address planned land needs endorsed by Council. The current approved budget in Capital Project 197730 is \$1,132,000. The contract was awarded to Wood in September 2019 based on an initial scope of approximately 1,300 ha (3,212 acres) for planned growth in accordance with 2041 growth forecasts released by the Province in Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan (2019).

Further background related to this request is included in the Peel 2041 ROP Review Report listed on the June 25, 2020 Regional Council agenda.

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### **2. Project Scope Change**

A revised scope is needed to address new forecasts for growth expected to be released by the Province in June 2020. These new forecasts are expected to increase the land area that will have to be investigated and addressed in the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) for the settlement expansion. The delay in the forecasts from the Province will also mean uncertainty around the amount of settlement expansion land area that will have to be carried into the later stages of the study than originally anticipated.

The expanded sub-watershed study scope will need to address the potential increase in complexity of the area studied as a larger settlement expansion will involve a larger area with multiple sub-watersheds. In addition to budget requirements for the additional scope, an increase to the existing contract is required.

### **3. Proposed Direction**

An extension of the existing contract with Wood is the most economical and efficient solution as it builds on existing work and ensures overall MCR study timelines are met as planned with flexibility to include the option of land area needed for growth beyond 2041.

## **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

A decision not to fund the request would delay the option to include new provincial forecasts in the current work plan for the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study and potentially result in higher costs to initiate a separate study process later and an extensive delay to the Region's Municipal Comprehensive review process. Approving funding and extending the existing contract provides Council the opportunity to address additional land needs while meeting current timelines.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Staff recommend that additional funding in the amount of \$224,600 (excluding applicable taxes) be added to the Capital Project 19-7730 to be funded from Development Charges Reserve Fund R3580 for a total capital budget of \$1,357,181. This additional funding combined with the remaining funds available in that account would support the requested approval to allow the existing contract with Wood (Document 2019-145P) be extended in the amount of \$307,600 (excluding applicable taxes) to a total contract commitment of \$1,194,459 (excluding applicable taxes).

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**Contract Extension for Peel 2041 Municipal Comprehensive Review Environmental Screening and Scoped Subwatershed Study**

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Mark Head, Manager, Research and Analysis, [mark.head@peelregion.ca](mailto:mark.head@peelregion.ca).*

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***Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:***

Department Commissioner, Division Director, Financial Support Unit and Procurement.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Polsinelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer