



Staff Report

Report Title: Water Quality Monitoring Program 2024 Budget

Prepared By: Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

Department: Treasury

Date: Mar. 4, 2024

Report Number: TR-2024-03-15

File Number: C11

Attachments:

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report TR-2024-03-15 prepared by Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer;

AND FURTHER direct staff to bring back a report prior to developing the 2025 budget to determine the future status of the water quality monitoring program.

Background:

At the February 16, 2024 meeting of Council to review the 2024 draft budget staff were directed to review the water quality monitoring program to determine if it could be reduced by approximately 50%.

The water quality monitoring program has a long history originating with the Lakeshore Water System and expanding when intense livestock operations were proposed. Changes to the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring program have also impacted the role of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

Discussion:

After initially discussing the concept with B.M. Ross and Associates, the issue with simply reducing the program budget by cutting sample sites is that the remaining data doesn't provide sufficient detail for analytical purposes. We cannot co-ordinate our water quality sampling with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's sampling because the data is not transportable. There is no connectivity between the sample sites.

Acknowledging the short timeframe before the start of the 2024 sampling program, staff propose that we do not change the 2024 proposed budget.

Staff intend to follow-up with both B.M. Ross and Saugeen Valley to determine what services, if any are required through Provincial legislation, contractual agreement or certificate of approval. A report will be brought back to Council in the fall to advise if continuation of the program is required before any commitment is made to 2025 funding.

Financial Impacts:

The current total budget for the water quality monitoring program is \$35,000.00.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the municipality's Vision & Mission.

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment by protecting our natural assets, using our resources wisely and being aware and taking responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer