



Subject: Block Assessments Through the Drainage Act

To: Council

From: Public Works Department

Report Number: 2021-144

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

Recommendation:

That Engineering and Operations Department Report 2021-144 be received;

That the Drainage Superintendent be directed to instruct the appointed Engineer, Brandon Widner of Spriet Associates Engineers and Architects to assess the urban areas of the Biederman and Eagle Marsh Drain through block assessment.

Purpose:

As per the requirements of the *Drainage Act*, Section 25(1) R.S.O. 1990:

“The council of the local municipality may direct the engineer to assess as a block, a built-up area designated by the council, and the sum assessed therefore may be levied against all the rateable properties in the designated area proportionately based on the assessed value of the land and buildings.”

Background:

Spriet Associates was appointed on the Biederman Drain on October 28, 2019. The firm has been diligently working on the survey and design, along with the determination of the watershed as affected by the active quarry in Wainfleet, and lastly dealing with concerns that have stemmed from the potential realignment of a portion of the drain through the Wainfleet Bog.

Spriet Associates was also appointed on the Eagle Marsh Drain on November 12, 2019. Again, the firm has been diligently working on the survey and design, along with the determination of the watershed as affected by the active quarry in Wainfleet and lastly

dealing with consideration to be made for the retaining wall nearest Hampton Ave, the gate structure and outlet.

On March 12, 2021, Council made the decision to endorse that all designated properties in the urban area storm sewer, that also overlap designated properties within a municipal drain watershed, have their municipal drain assessments paid through the Storm Sewer Rate.

As both drains are affected, staff recommend the same treatment of block assessment in both cases. Block assessment will remove the requirement for the Engineer to assess each individual parcel, therefore saving time and expense. Drainage assessments in the block assessment area will be paid as a lump sum item from the collected storm sewer fees.

In both watersheds, there will be approximately 1361 parcels that are affected by both the urban area storm sewer fee and municipal drains. See attachments for these defined areas.

Financial Implications:

Proceeding with block assessment for these drains will save staff time when processing the billings once construction for both the Biederman and Eagle Marsh Drain Reports is complete. These staff savings will continue to be realized for future maintenance of these Municipal Drains.

Conclusion:

Approval of this report will allow the Engineer to work towards the completion of these reports in a timely manner.

Appendices:

- a. Watershed of the Biederman Drain showing the overlap of the Urban Storm Sewer Area
- b. Watershed of the Eagle Marsh Drain showing the overlap of the Urban Storm Sewer Area

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.