

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 15, 2018</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES &amp; CITY ENGINEER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UPDATE ON NOMINATION TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE THAMES SYDENHAM SOURCE WATER PROTECTION REGION</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the Source Water Protection Committee and the County of Middlesex **BE ADVISED** that the City of London does not wish to nominate a representative to the Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Committee and defers to the County of Middlesex the nomination of future candidates; it being noted that the City of London is decommissioning the last of its emergency wells, so the work of the Source Protection Committee is better suited to representation by the County, if it so chooses.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER**

- Renewal of Risk Management Services Agreement, Thames Sydenham Region Source Water Protection (September 26, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee, Item #7)
- Environmental Programs Update: Thames Sydenham Region Source Water Protection (April 24, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee, Item #10)
- Environmental Programs Update: Thames Sydenham Region Source Water Protection (April 25, 2016 meeting of the Civic Works Committee, Item # 8)
- Environmental Programs Update: Thames Sydenham Region Source Water Protection (April 20, 2015 meeting of the Civic Works Committee, Item # 12)
- Thames Sydenham Region source Water Protection Plan - Risk Management Services Agreement (August 25, 2014 meeting of the CWC, Item #18)

**2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN**

The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus areas of *Building a Sustainable City* and *Strengthening our Community* directly and indirectly as follows:

- Strengthening our Community – healthy, safe & accessible City of London;
- Growing our Economy – Strategic, collaborative partnerships;
- Building a Sustainable City – Strong & healthy environment.

**BACKGROUND**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to acknowledge that the City of London will not be advancing or recommending names for nomination to the seat available for a joint posting for the City of London - County of Middlesex on the Steering Committee for the Thames Sydenham Region Source Water Protection Region. The City of London will defer to Middlesex County to consider making a nomination given their continued vested interest in the work of the Committee.

## Context

Source Water Protection Plans have been prepared across the Province as a result of provincial legislation that came into effect after the drinking water tragedy in Walkerton in 2000. These plans which include the Thames Sydenham Region Source Protection Plan (herein referred to as the “Plan”) are designed to safeguard drinking water resources ‘at their source’ and to identify potential threats. The Thames Sydenham Region Source Protection Plan does not include the protection of London’s municipal drinking water supply. The Lake Huron & Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems are considered in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan and in the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Plan.

## DISCUSSION

The Steering Committee for the Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Committee has had a City of London representative since creation of the Committee in 2007. The City’s representative, Patrick Donnelly, has served on the Committee from 2007 to 2016 inclusive and further represented both the City and Middlesex County in 2017 and 2018. The original focus of that Committee was to prepare a Source Water Protection Plan which is now completed and being implemented. In 2017 the Committee evolved into an implementation role and the Committee size was reduced. Due to recent improvements to the City’s water system, the City no longer needs to be involved in Source Water Protection implementation.

The Clean Water Act requires all municipalities with drinking water wells to participate in Source Water Protection due to the sensitive land area surrounding the well head (termed ‘Well Head Protection Areas’). The City of London has had historic involvement in the Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Committee due to the City’s seven emergency drinking water back-up wells. The newly completed Southeast Reservoir and Pumping Station now provides the additional emergency protection previously provided by these wells. As these emergency wells are no longer required they have been capped and are in the process of being decommissioned. The decommissioning of these wells will allow the initiation of a process to remove the Well Head Protection Area designation for these seven wells from both the Thames Sydenham Source Protection Plan and from the London Plan. Now that these wells are no longer in use the City of London no longer has a vested interest in the Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Region and it is suggested that the City of London representative step down from being a member of the Source Water Protection committee.

The *Clean Water Act* requires a joint list of nominees from Middlesex and London Councils be provided when a new member is selected to a Source Water Protection Committee. It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

*That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the Source Water Protection Committee and the County of Middlesex **BE ADVISED** that the City of London does not wish to nominate a representative to the Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Committee and defers to the County of Middlesex the nomination of future candidates; it being noted that the City of London is decommissioning the last of its emergency wells, so the work of the Source Protection Committee is better suited to representation by the County, if it so chooses.*

## CONCLUSION

The Steering Committee continues to oversee implementation of the Source Water Protection Plan and future amendments to the Plan. The City of London has been part of the Plan creation for the past 11 years, has incorporated relevant policies into the London Plan for implementation and has made changes to the emergency back-up drinking water wells that removes the majority of the City of London's vested interest in the plan. It is therefore appropriate for Middlesex County to represent the joint interests of the two municipal jurisdictions by nominating a member to the Thames Sydenham Source Water Protection Committee moving forward.

### **Acknowledgements:**

This report was prepared by Patrick Donnelly and Dan Huggins with input from Jenna Allain of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

<b>PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED &amp; CONCURRED BY:</b>
<b>PATRICK DONNELLY, M.Sc. RPP WATERSHED PROGRAM MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>SCOTT MATHERS, MPA, P. ENG. DIRECTOR WATER &amp; WASTEWATER</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</b>	

April 16, 2018/pd\

Appendix 'A': Email of April 3, 2018 to Clerks requesting nomination from UTRCA

cc: Jenna Allain, UTRCA, Kathy Bunting, County of Middlesex