

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** Storm Water Management Policy

**Date Prepared:** September 29, 2019

**Report To:** Committee of the Whole

**Councillor and Role:** Councillor Ian Froude, Public Works & Sustainability

**Ward:** Ward 4

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## **Decision/Direction Required:**

That Council consider the following recommendations to the draft Stormwater Management Policy.

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

At the September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Environmental and Sustainability Expert Panel (ESEP) meeting, the Panel reviewed and discussed the Draft Storm Water Management Policy. The ESEP supports the holistic approach to the management of stormwater, which includes the water in the storm sewer system, streets, parking lots, watercourses, wetlands, as well as subjects like retention, floodplains, stream crossings, erosion and sediment control, and overall protection of the watersheds. The ESEP provides the following comments with the intention of improving on the existing draft Storm Water Management Policy:

1. Clause 3.1 General (c) – *“developers shall endeavor to reduce flow velocities, promote natural storage, and promote natural storage.”* – Language could include support to maximizing retention of trees and other vegetation cover, and reducing asphalt coverage on individual lots, parking lots, etc.
2. Clause 3.1 General (I) – *“Attenuation of Stormwater runoff using rooftop storage shall not satisfy any Attenuation requirements in the Development Design Manual.”* – It would be beneficial to clarify the intention of this policy with regards to new technology (e.g., greenroofs, rainbarrells and other forms of storage connected to rooftop runoff).
3. Clause 3.1 General (I) and Clause 3.2 Storm Sewer Systems (a) – These sections could include stronger reference to encourage the design of storm sewer systems integrating low impact development and green infrastructure. In particular to use such infrastructure for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
4. Clause 3.13 Climate Change - discusses climate change, but it would be best if this was integrated throughout the policy and not as a Clause of its own.

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5. Clause 3.2 Storm Sewer System (d) – *“For Residential Development or Non-residential development, Storm sewer service laterals for new or redeveloped lots shall connect to the City storm sewer system; with such installation being at a time directed by the City.”* – the wording of this clause may cause confusion with the requirement to ensure rooftop runoff is not connected to the storm sewer system through its laterals. If this is only to apply to the foundation drain, it may be good to specify.
6. Clause 3.2 Storm Sewer (l) – *“Downspout conveying runoff from rooftops to the ground for Residential Development, except apartment buildings, shall not be connected to the storm sewer system”* – Consider including all development to be required to be disconnected, with the option to apply for an exemption.
7. Clause 3.4 Parking Lots (a) – *“Parking lots shall be designed to capture all surface drainage and convey all stormwater into a city storm sewer system or approved Watercourse. Infiltration of some or all Stormwater into the ground may, however, be acceptable where it can be demonstrated to the City’s satisfaction through a geotechnical report that the ground can accommodate the surface drainage without any negative impacts.”* – The requirement for a geotechnical report may be best suited for inclusion in the updated development guideline with more detail on requirements.
8. Clause 3.7 Watercourses (g) – *“Developers may be required, as determined by the City, to ensure that there is an adequate baseflow in receiving rivers and streams for post-Development conditions and that fish habitat is protected.”* – Use in conjunction with management of stormwater.
9. Clause 3.8 Floodplains (e) – *“Existing Dwellings within a Floodplain may be replaced provided the new Dwelling is constructed within the existing footprint and the lowest floor elevation is at least 0.3m above the 100-year high water elevation.”* – Does this elevation incorporate climate change projection estimates?
10. Clause 3.9 Wetlands (e) – *“lowest floor elevation to be 0.3 metres above the elevation of a wetland.”* – This seems to be a very low minimum (0.3 metres/1 foot).
11. Clause 3.13 Climate Change (a) & (b) – These are good statements but quite general, and should be expanded on if this is to be included as a single clause (e.g., examples of initiatives in adapting to climate change and innovative practices that are deemed “approved” as stormwater management practices). However, the preference is to incorporate language of climate change considerations across the report and not as a single clause.
12. Clause 4 Application – *“This policy applies to all Development activity in the City, with the exception of City operations and/or actions.”* – It is unclear why the policy doesn’t apply to City operations and/or actions.

13. There is no reference to tracking the condition and performance of the City's stormwater system. If it is covered in other policy documents, perhaps it should be referenced in the Stormwater Policy.

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: N/A
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: Sustainable City
4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: N/A
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: N/A

**Recommendation:**

That Council directs staff to prepare a revised Stormwater Management Policy that considers the recommendations provided.

**Prepared by:** Edmundo Fausto

**Approved by:**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Stormwater Management Policy.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 8, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Brian Head - Oct 8, 2020 - 3:37 PM**

**Lynnann Winsor - Oct 8, 2020 - 4:10 PM**