

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Mar30\_2021**

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE****Astotin Creek Resiliency Study Q1 update****Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the Astotin Creek Resiliency Study.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources

Continuously improving the way we work, as one organization, in an agile and sustainable manner

**Report**

The Astotin Creek Resiliency Study is being undertaken to help manage current and future water quantity and quality issues. The key goals of the study are to:

- Create an action plan that will address flood, drought and water-quality issues in priority areas within the Astotin Creek basin.
- Restore and enhance ecological connectivity and function in critical areas of the Astotin Creek basin.
- Increase capacity, knowledge, awareness and participation by industrial landowners, private landowners and agricultural producers in activities that can restore and maintain critical areas and functions of Astotin Creek.

An internal Technical Working Group of subject-matter experts has been established to provide technical guidance and feedback for the study. This group is led by Planning and Development Services and includes representatives from Communications, Transportation and Agriculture Services, Transportation Planning and Engineering, and Utilities. Given the complexity of the project and its potential to impact the County's day-to-day operations, future transportation projects, and utilities projects, a multi-disciplinary working group from multiple departments is required to ensure the project's success.

A Steering Committee of senior leaders within Infrastructure and Planning Services Division has been established to provide high-level oversight and define the direction for the study.

A Request for Proposal was developed in January, vetted through the Technical Working Group and Steering Committee, and posted to Alberta Purchasing Connection from February 1 to March 2. Six submissions were received, and the successful proponent was WSP Canada Inc.

**Council and Committee History**

Oct. 6, 2020	The Priorities Committee received a presentation on the project plan for the proposed Astotin Creek Basin Water Management Study.
July 14, 2020	THAT administration prepare, for Council's consideration by the end of Quarter 3 of 2020, an implementation plan complete with agenda, study, work timeline and budget for holistic management of the Astotin Creek Basin within Strathcona County.

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**Other Impacts****Policy:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** n/a**Interdepartmental:** n/a**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a**Communication Plan**

Various stakeholders have been identified, including but not limited to Council, affected area residents and tenants, industry representatives, provincial and federal government partners and regulators, various County departments and Indigenous organizations.

A project website and email have been established and can be found at <https://www.strathcona.ca/transportation-roads/planning-and-design/astotin-creek-resiliency-study/>. The website will be regularly updated with engagement opportunities and project progress.

Extensive engagement with area landowners and stakeholders is required for the success of the study. An engagement plan will be developed early in Q2 with the consultant. Some stakeholders have already been contacted via email and telephone to provide a brief status update on the study timelines and future engagement.

**Enclosure**

1

WSP Canada Inc. proposal highlights – milestones and engagement