

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jun22_2021

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**Astotin Creek Resiliency Study Q2 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.

The Technical Working Group has been engaged with the consultant, WSP Canada Inc. Data transfer to support engineering and environmental work has been completed. Landowner and industrial access request letters were sent in early May. Environmental field work was initiated in May, including amphibians, raptors, semi-aquatic mammals, birds and fisheries. Engineering field work was initiated in June, including hydrology.

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Council and Committee History

March 30, 2021	The Priorities Committee received an update on the Q1 Astotin Creek Resiliency Study.
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.

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. A Community Engagement Strategy and Communications Plan has been developed with the consultant. Stakeholders have been contacted via letter, email and telephone to provide a status update on the study timelines and future engagement. The first series of engagement workshops will be in July, focusing on Indigenous, stakeholder and community events.

Enclosure

- 1 Community Engagement Strategy and Communications Plan