

**STORM SEWER AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

**Recommendation**

The Director of Finance in consultation with the Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services and the Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works recommends:

That staff prepare a report on a funding strategy for storm sewers and storm water management ponds.

**Purpose**

To request staff to review the various aspects of funding storm sewers and storm water management pond sections of the Wastewater operations. Under Bill 175, the Sustainable Water & Sewage Systems Act, municipalities will be required to move to a full cost recovery basis. Storm sewers and storm water management ponds are part of this system and as such the funding strategy should be reviewed in conjunction with Water and Wastewater consumption rates.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The wastewater operations are comprised of the following areas which are currently funded through area rates and consumption rates.

	<b>2004 Budget</b>
Maintenance/Installation of Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure	\$2.4m
Storm Sewer/Storm Water Management Pond Maintenance	\$1.8m

The cost for storm sewer and storm water management (SWM) pond maintenance has escalated significantly over the past years primarily due to growth of the City and the increase in the number of storm water management ponds.

SWM ponds are designed as collection points for water during heavy rain events. These ponds provide storage capacity to reduce downstream flooding, allow suspended sediments to settle, and improve the quality of the runoff waters. During their life cycle, these ponds require regular maintenance. Ongoing maintenance includes general upkeep of inlet and outlet structures and grates, as well as general upkeep of the site. To ensure that the SWM ponds maintain their designed storage capacity, removal of the accumulated sediment is also required. Although this is performed on a less frequent basis, there are significant costs to this operation.

Both storm sewer and storm water management pond costs should not be based on water consumption rates as is wastewater therefore another funding mechanism should be considered so that under Bill 175 a full cost recovery system can be developed.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

**Conclusion**

That staff provide a report on an alternate approach to funding the storm sewer system and storm water management ponds.

**Attachments**

None

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Jackson, CGA  
Director of Finance