

Vermilion River Stewardship



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12 July 2017

Akli Ben-Anteur, P.Eng., M.Eng., M.PM
Water/Wastewater Engineer
City of Greater Sudbury
Water & Wastewater Services
200 Brady Street
PO Box 5000, Station A
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3
By email: Akli.Ben-Anteur@greatersudbury.ca

Re: Water & Wastewater Master Plan

Dear Mr. Ben-Anteur:

The Vermilion River Stewardship (VRS) is pleased to offer our comments on the City of Greater Sudbury's Water and Wastewater Master Plan (Master Plan). Our comments are based on information received at the Public Consultation Session held on Thursday, 29 June 2017, at the South End Library, as well as our review of the supporting documentation provided.

The health and vitality of the river, creek and lake ecosystems within the City of Greater Sudbury must be a major priority as they are an economic driver for the region, and will be under increasing pressure in the coming years. Climate Change is predicted to bring increasing heavy rain events, and has already proven to be a major challenge for our local wastewater infrastructure. Inflow and infiltration (I&I) of stormwater into the wastewater system is the major challenge and it must be addressed in a timely and effective manner. Doing nothing is not an acceptable option, nor is it enough to simply optimize the existing wastewater infrastructure. Wastewater staff are extremely efficient and have already significantly optimized the existing system, so the Master Plan must go much further if it is to serve our communities far into the future.

Large volumes of untreated and undertreated wastewater are being released into our local creeks, rivers, and lakes when heavy rain events occur, and this will become increasingly problematic as the climate warms. For example, on the 4th of April last spring, within 24 hours a Major primary bypass of 122,404 m³, or 122,404,000 litres, of raw sewage was released into the Vermilion River, and in February 65,169 m³, or 65,169,000 litres, was released.

July 12, 2017

VRS strongly recommends a two-pronged approach whereby defined disconnect and repair targets and timelines are set to stem the I&I of stormwater into the wastewater system. In the short-term the City must be vigilant and Council supportive of enforcement of its Sewer Use By-law to ensure illegal sewer hookups are quickly disconnected. In the long-term, there must be new storage infrastructure constructed to hold sewage and stormwater until it can be properly treated and released into the environment.

A long-term Master Plan must also include tertiary treatment for improved wastewater effluent treatment at facilities to be upgraded, such as the Sudbury, Chelmsford, and Walden Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

For the Chelmsford Wastewater Treatment Plant, VRS supports the preferred alternative, to leave all plants independent, and to upgrade the Chelmsford WWTP.

It will also be necessary for Council to provide the necessary funds to allow for the implementation of all preferred alternatives.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. VRS looks forward to the Notice of Study Completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Heron", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Linda Heron
Chair, Vermilion River Stewardship