

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 6, 2022

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Zack Moshonas, Environmental Compliance Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Source Protection Transfer of Authority**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approves the amended Source Protection Agreement to authorize the Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities to perform the enforcement responsibilities of Part IV of the Clean Water Act on behalf of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills; AND THAT Committee of the Whole recommend Council directs the Mayor and Clerk to execute the amended agreement.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2006, the Province of Ontario created legislation known as the Clean Water Act to put multiple layers of protection in place to for protection of lakes, rivers and groundwater where they supply municipal drinking water. Source water planning took place in 19 regions. Mississippi Mills is part of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Region. A committee of stakeholders was formed and the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan was developed. The Source Protection Plan contains policies to protect drinking water sources ranging from prohibition of activities to outreach and education policies to encourage voluntary good practices. The plan incorporates review of new and existing development to ensure protection of the source water. With the polices in place the ability to review and enforce the policies has to be assigned by each Municipality to qualified, knowledgeable people. The Municipality originally entered into a Source Protection Transfer of Authority Agreement with the Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities (Conservation Authorities) in 2014 to transfer authority for enforcement of Part IV responsibilities from the Municipality under the Clean Water Act. The agreement has since expired but the Authorities have been continuing the agreement under an extension. The Town of Perth, Municipality of North Grenville, and the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley all retain the Conservation Authorities to provide the same Source Protection enforcement services. The purpose of the amendment is to renew and update the agreement with respect to timelines and to remove information that is no longer required. The Conservation Authorities had multiple different agreements with different municipalities and wish to standardize the

agreement. All the municipalities noted above have approved and signed the amended agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The Conservation Authorities wish to amend the original agreement to combine Schedule A & B into one Schedule A and to revise the agreement timeline for an indefinite extension term. The amended agreement also includes a clause for termination. The Conservation Authorities have standardized this agreement for all participating municipalities.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve and execute the amended agreement – Recommended. This would allow the Conservation Authorities to have a standardized approach for all participating municipalities to enforce the Transferred responsibilities of Part IV of the Clean Water Act.
2. Do not accept the new agreement – Not recommended. The existing agreement remains in effect. Mississippi Mills would be the only municipality operating under the old agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Approving and executing the amended Agreement as recommended by Staff does not pose any financial implications as the fee structure would remain the same.

SUMMARY:

Staff have reviewed the amended agreement and have noted no issues that change the service the Conservation Authorities currently provide to the Municipality. The amended agreement would extend the timeline for the agreement for the Conservation Authorities to provide Source Protection enforcement authority for the Municipality indefinitely. Staff recommend the amended agreement be approved and executed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:

Zack Moshonas,
Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Cory Smith,
A/Director of Roads and Public Works

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2014_MississippiMillsSIGNATURESall.pdf
2. Part IV Agreement Extension draft_MM.docx
3. Schedule A.pdf