

Staff Report

Presented By: Matt Prentice, Director, Operations
Meeting Date: November 24, 2025
Subject: Water and Wastewater Master Plan
Attachment(s): 2025 Water and Wastewater Master Plan, BM Ross

Recommendation

That Council receive the Water and Wastewater Master Plan report for information.

Report Summary

The final 2025 Water and Wastewater Master Plan incorporates further analysis and comments received since the Public Information Centre (July 17, 2025) and the update provided to Council on [September 8, 2025](#). The Master Plan assesses the impact of growth on water and wastewater treatment capacity, water distribution and storage systems, and the wastewater collection system. Recommendations outlined in the Master Plan are included in the 2026 Business Plan for Council consideration.

Background/Analysis

The 2025 Water and Wastewater Master Plan is an Operations Major Initiative in the 2025 Business Plan. The study has included a reassessment of growth and development, with a view towards re-evaluating Water and Wastewater Treatment capacity. Current and future infrastructure needs have been re-evaluated and project priorities and timelines identified, as well as future Environmental Assessment requirements. This study has used Bruce County's Good Growth forecasts and the forecasts from the Town's Development Charges Study. The forecasted total Saugeen Shores 2045 population ranges from 20,147 to 22,214.

Increasing **Water Treatment** capacity is identified as a high priority. A Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to upgrade the Water Treatment Plant is underway and the Business Plan includes capital funding for capacity improvements. The EA findings are expected to refine the scope and cost estimate for the required work.

Increasing **Water Storage** has been identified as a high priority in the Master Plan. Water Storage is designed to meet daily flow equalization needs, fire storage, and emergency storage. The near-future capacity limitation is a significant concern to both Operations and Fire Services. The 2025 Business Plan included \$12M of capital upgrades to address this issue, and this need

has been reinforced by the new modelling. A Class EA is proposed in 2026 to determine a final preferred solution and implementation strategy.

The **Port Elgin Wastewater Treatment Plant** has sufficient rated capacity to accommodate predicted growth for the planning period to 2045. The ongoing Class EA will address capacity of the headworks, asset rehabilitation, operational issues and eventual future capacity needs. These issues and the need for the EA were recommended in the 2020 Master Plan.

The **Southampton Wastewater Treatment Plant** is currently undergoing a very significant headworks upgrade, supported by a grant under the Housing Enabling Water System Fund (HEWSF). The 10-year Business Plan includes future phases of capital work at this facility. Upon completion, this plant is predicted to have adequate capacity until 2049.

Overall, both the **Water Distribution System and the Wastewater Collection System** pipe networks have adequate capacity for future growth to the end of the planning period. There are specific improvements recommended in key areas, most of which were previously identified and are included in the existing Business Plan. It is worth noting the following:

- Water Distribution System: the model and field testing indicate that good fire flows are available from the system. However, water storage improvements are required.
- The Wastewater Collection System modelling identifies specific sewers that may experience capacity issues as growth occurs and identifies projects to mitigate this effect. It is recommended to monitor the system and upgrade as required.

The Master Plan provides a summary of recommended projects and the relative priority. These were incorporated into the 2026 Business Plan. The Plan incorporates a discussion of servicing considerations for Saugeen First Nation and the potential impact of any future sanitary sewer expansion in Goble's Grove as well as a summary of public comments received and a summary of the consulting engineer's response.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 1: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community
- Business Plan Alignment: Operations Major Initiative

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Estimated impacts associated with the Master Plan will be included in the 2026 Business Plan for Council consideration

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