



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Council

Submitted by: 
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works

Date: September 28, 2026

Subject: Stannus Street Stormwater Management — STORM Application

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act, Section 65 authorizes Council to expend funds for municipal purposes.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

It is recommended that Council:

Approve the Stannus Street Stormwater Management Detailed Design project for submittal under the Stormwater Transformation Optimization and Resilience for Municipalities (STORM) program.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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The Province of Nova Scotia recently issued an invitation for applications under the Stormwater Transformation Optimization and Resilience for Municipalities (STORM) program. This program provides targeted funding to help Nova Scotia municipalities advance stormwater management through focused planning, analysis, and program development. The program provides funding for up to 50% of eligible project costs. The application deadline is November 12, 2026. Application

submissions must include a resolution of Council supporting the submission of the project for funding consideration under STORM.

DISCUSSION

Eligible projects include:

- Consulting services that advance measurable improvements across key areas of municipal stormwater management.
- Data collection, monitoring & system understanding
- Risk, capacity & climate resilience assessments
- Infrastructure planning & investment prioritization
- Policy, governance & program implementation
- The purchase of in-stream flow monitoring equipment.
- GIS licences and GIS training for municipal staff.

Eligible costs include:

- Professional Services: Fees paid to external professionals or consultants for specialized expertise or services required for the project.
- Equipment: Costs associated with purchasing, renting, or leasing equipment required to complete approved project activities, including monitoring, data collection, mapping, inspections, training, or public engagement.
- Community Engagement: Costs associated with renting event facilities and hosting community gatherings related to project activities.
- Permit Fees: Fees required to obtain the permits or licences necessary to carry out the project.

Ineligible costs include:

- Construction, retrofits, or installation of infrastructure
- Land acquisition
- Leasing land, buildings and other facilities
- Real estate fees and related costs
- Organizational overhead costs, including salaries, benefits, and other existing expenses already included in the recipient's operating budget.
- Operating expenses and routine or regularly scheduled maintenance activities.
- Financing costs, including interest charges, legal fees, and loan payments.
- Costs for materials, supplies, transportation, or services not directly related to the implementation of the project
- Non-fixed assets that are not essential to the operation or delivery of the project.

The Stormwater Transformation Optimization and Resilience for Municipalities (STORM) program provides an excellent opportunity to obtain external funding for the detailed design of the Stannus Street Stormwater Management project. The Windsor Stormwater Management

Plan was completed by CBCL Ltd. (CBCL) in August 2025. The final report identified a preferred integrated stormwater management solution and established a master plan for construction phasing, with Stannus Street identified as the Municipality's top priority.

In December 2025, Council awarded the 30% design for the Stannus Street Stormwater Management project to CBCL. This work is well underway and is currently focused on obtaining the necessary approvals from Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) to redirect stormwater flows into the Tregothic Creek watershed. The detailed design will naturally follow completion of the 30% design and is the next step toward advancing the project to a tender-ready stage. The project meets the STORM program application targets and will provide significant flood-risk reduction for properties impacted by the Cunnabel Creek stormwater catchment.

The project has been identified as a top priority by Council and has received public and media attention due to the ongoing stormwater concerns in the area. Previous phases of the project have received provincial funding, and STORM funding for the detailed design would allow the Municipality to continue advancing this priority project toward construction.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this funding application:

- Sign funding agreement with the Province.
- Complete project monitoring reports for the Province during detailed design.
- Complete project close-out documentation for the Province following completion of detailed design.

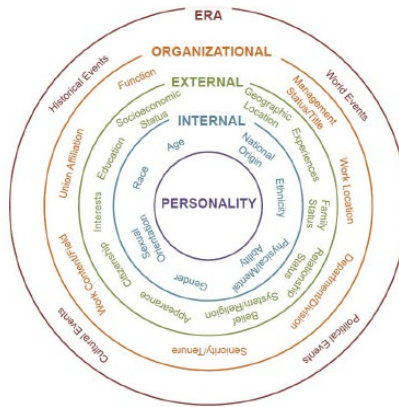
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If 50% funding is secured through the program, the municipal contribution for the detailed design phase of the project would be reduced from an estimated \$300,000 + HST to \$150,000 + HST. In addition, the grant support will reduce future borrowing needs and the associated financing costs related to the Stannus Street portion of the design for this project. CBCL will provide a detailed cost proposal, including the final design estimate, prior to submission of the funding application.

The Cunnabel Creek Stormwater Project design has been incorporated into the Capital Budget over multiple years, and has sufficient capacity existing to proceed should the grant application be successful.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Staff reviewed this procurement process, and no material implications related to DEIA were identified.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Stannus Street Stormwater Management project will improve the Municipality's ability to manage stormwater flows and reduce flood risks within the Cunnabel Creek watershed. The existing system is combined, resulting in stormwater and wastewater discharges to the roadway and private properties during significant flood events. Addressing these excessive stormwater flows will reduce the potential for wastewater releases and associated environmental impacts.

The proposed solution will redirect stormwater flows into the Tregothic Creek watershed in a controlled manner, reducing pressure on the existing system and improving the overall resilience of the stormwater infrastructure. The detailed design will assess potential environmental impacts and incorporate appropriate measures to minimize and mitigate those impacts, in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and approvals from NSECC.

ALTERNATIVES

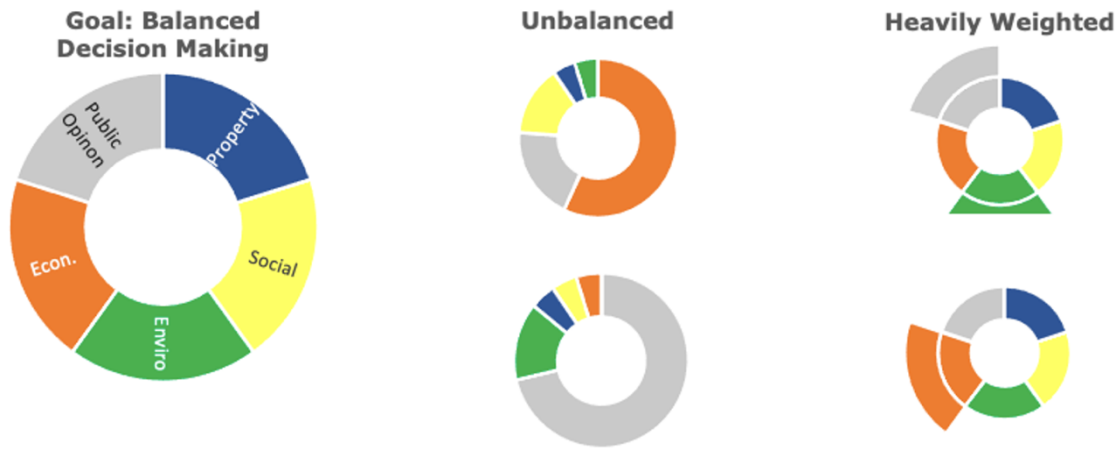
- Council may choose not to proceed with this funding application (not recommended).

ATTACHMENTS

- None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: Tim B
Tim Bouter, Project Engineer

Report Reviewed by: T. Richard
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works

Report Approved by: _____
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer