

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** August 30, 2021

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Deanna Wasnik, Acting Director Planning, Development & Infrastructure

**SUBJECT:** Integrated Stormwater Management Plan-Guiding Document & Roadmap

**ATTACHMENT(S):** ISMP Guiding Document & Roadmap  
Powerpoint Presentation

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated August 30, 2021, from the Acting Director Planning and Development Services, titled “Integrated Stormwater Management Plan – Guiding Document & Roadmap”.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the outcomes of the final stage of the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP); the overarching Guiding Document & Roadmap.

**BACKGROUND:**

Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

The ISMP is a strategic plan that outlines the City’s short to long-term goals for its stormwater management program and acts as a guide on how to achieve these goals. It examines the relationship between land use, infrastructure, public safety, and the environment and takes a comprehensive look at policy, procedures, regulations, and infrastructure needed to guide community growth in a way that maintains or ideally improves the health of its watersheds. The following Technical Working Papers (TWP’s) were developed over the last year and were inputs to the final overarching Guiding Document, Roadmap and Action list:

Technical Working Paper Title	Focus Area
TWP #1 – Technical Background	Watershed Drainage Plans, project prioritization and asset inventory.
TWP #2 – Engineering Issues	Green infrastructure, risk assessment of stormwater network, and condition assessment program.
TWP #3 – Policy & Regulations	Bylaw review and update recommendations.
TWP #4 – Financing Options	Options for sustainable funding for the stormwater system using examples from other municipalities for comparison.

## History of Previous Stormwater and Drainage Utility Project

During the August 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, a question regarding whether or not the previous Stormwater and Drainage Utility Project was ever presented to Council. Administration has determined that the last reports on this subject were presented at the February 3 and May 14, 2014 Standing Committee on Finance and Audit meetings, and were never brought forward to Council. At that time, Administration recommended a tiered single family unit model and creation of a Drainage Utility Bylaw. The Committee noted that a public communication strategy would need to be developed.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This work was identified as a priority under the Environmental Leadership and Climate Action myPG pillar. It assists with three of Council's Focus areas:

- Incorporate adaptation to climate change in relevant operations;
- Prioritize infrastructure re-investment and renewal to ensure the delivery of critical recreation, emergency, transportation, and utility services; and
- Maintain fiscal sustainability, balance service levels with the affordability of the City's services, facilities, and operations.

### **GUIDING DOCUMENT & ROADMAP HIGHLIGHTS:**

The ISMP was developed to answer four key questions for stormwater management in the City of Prince George:

1. What do we have?
2. What do we want?
3. How do we put this into action?
4. Are we on target?

#### **What Do We Have?:**

The City uses a system of catch basins, storm sewers, ditches, ponds and creeks to manage and convey rainwater and melted snow that runs off private properties and public roads some of which end up in the Fraser and Nechako Rivers. Part of managing this large system includes inspecting, cleaning, repairing, and replacing the infrastructure over its entire life.

There has already been a lot of work completed in the area of stormwater and asset management that was used in the development of this ISMP and will continue to be used to support the City as it further develops its stormwater management program. There are still many challenges the City faces, like;

- Sprawling development;
- Aging infrastructure;
- Erosion;
- Climate change;
- Increase in regulatory requirements;
- Lack of dedicated funding;
- Protection of natural assets; and
- Strength of bylaws.

These challenges were identified and recommendations for action were developed within the four TWP's.

#### **What Do We Want?:**

After detailing the City's existing stormwater management program, the next step was to identify the desired future stormwater program for the City through meetings and workshops with multiple City departments. This began with the identification of an overall vision for stormwater management in Prince George supported by several goals that align with the myPG four pillars. The following vision was developed:

***“Sustainable and cost-effective service delivery of stormwater management that protects life, property, and a healthy environment.”***

In order to support the vision, the following four goals were identified:

Enhance livability through beautification, connections to nature and recreational opportunities.	Protect life and property from flooding & erosion.
Preserve and enhance the health of the community's watersheds.	Infrastructure costs are minimized and apportioned equitably.

#### **How Do We Put This Into Action?:**

All previously identified action items through the existing watershed drainage plans and newly identified action items through the development of this ISMP, were consolidated into a comprehensive list presented in Appendix ‘A’ of the Guiding Document. All action items support one or more of the four goals identified above. The action items were prioritized based on the prioritization framework developed for this ISMP. The prioritization framework considers economic, environmental and social benefits and approximate costs for each action item. Some of these action items were identified through a review of best practices from other similar municipalities.

#### **Are we on Target?:**

Like many municipalities, stormwater management at the City is spread out over many departments and divisional groups. In order to keep track of how the City is progressing with implementing the ISMP and its action items, an ISMP “owner” will be identified. The list of action items will be periodically updated as actions are completed, new information is received and priorities changed. The ISMP owner will provide progress updates to senior administration and Council. There will also be a comprehensive review every five years to determine if the ISMP needs to be significantly updated and/or revised.

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

The final step in the ISMP project is to provide education to the community on the importance of stormwater management. This will be accomplished using online informational material and through a survey, planned for mid-September, 2021.

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The Integrated Stormwater Management Plan integrates land use, infrastructure, public safety, and the environment to guide community growth while maintaining or improving the health of our community’s watersheds. A detailed analysis was completed over the last year in the form of four (4) Technical Working Papers that provided the input for this overarching Guiding Document, Roadmap, and action list. Like most municipalities, the City of Prince George faces challenges related to stormwater management, but this ISMP is a step in the right direction by formalizing the vision, goals and actions to move these challenges into opportunities.

Rainwater and snowmelt are part of life in Prince George. Providing the public with knowledge of how important stormwater management is to their everyday lives is key to continuing to work towards a stormwater system that is in good working order for future generations.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Deanna Wasnik, Acting Director Planning and Development Services

**PREPARED BY:** Kristy Bobbie, Asset Manager

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/08/30