



Urban Storm Water Operations and Financing Options

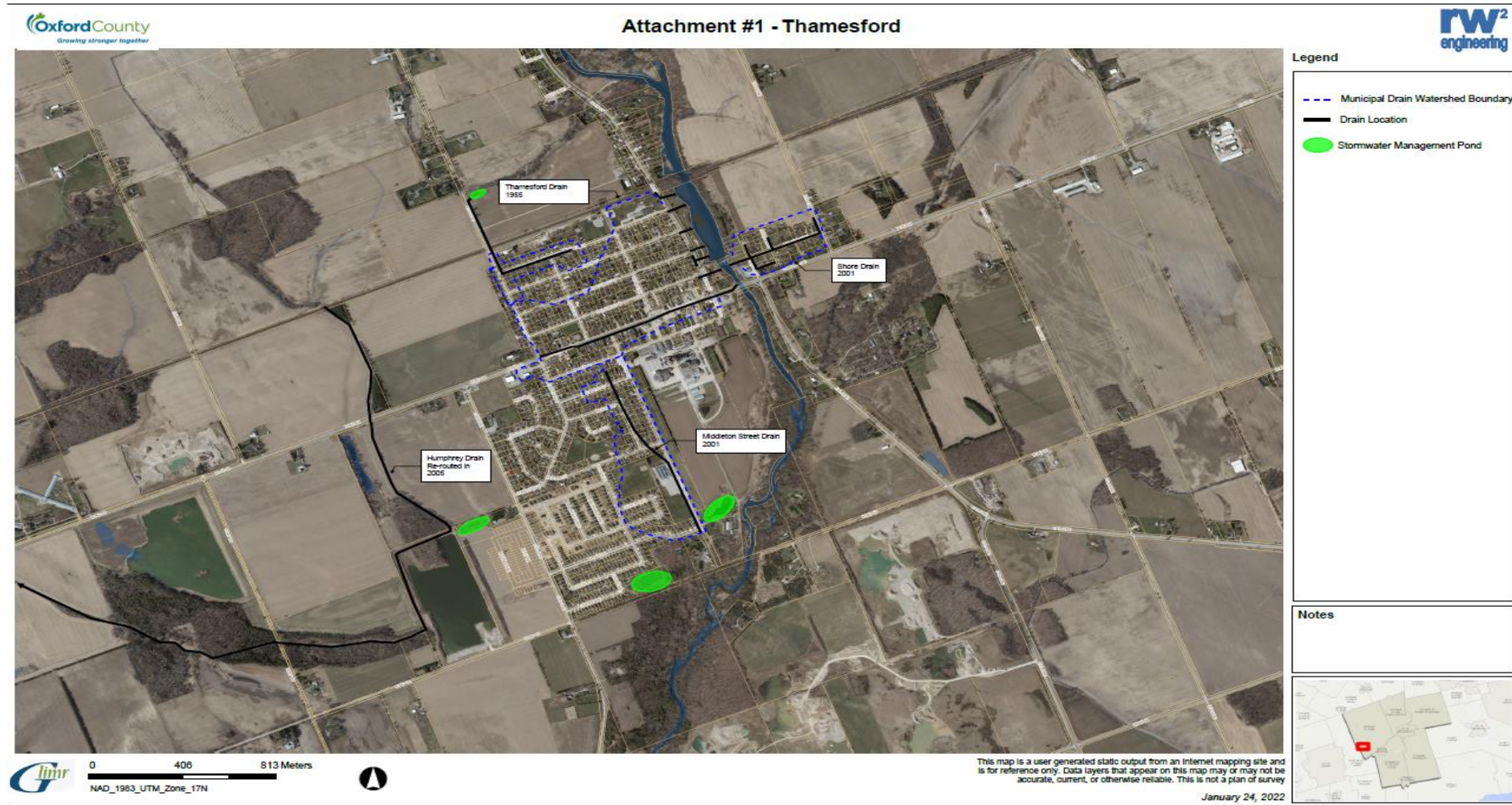
June 15, 2022
Public Consultation

Urban Storm Water Operations and Financing Options

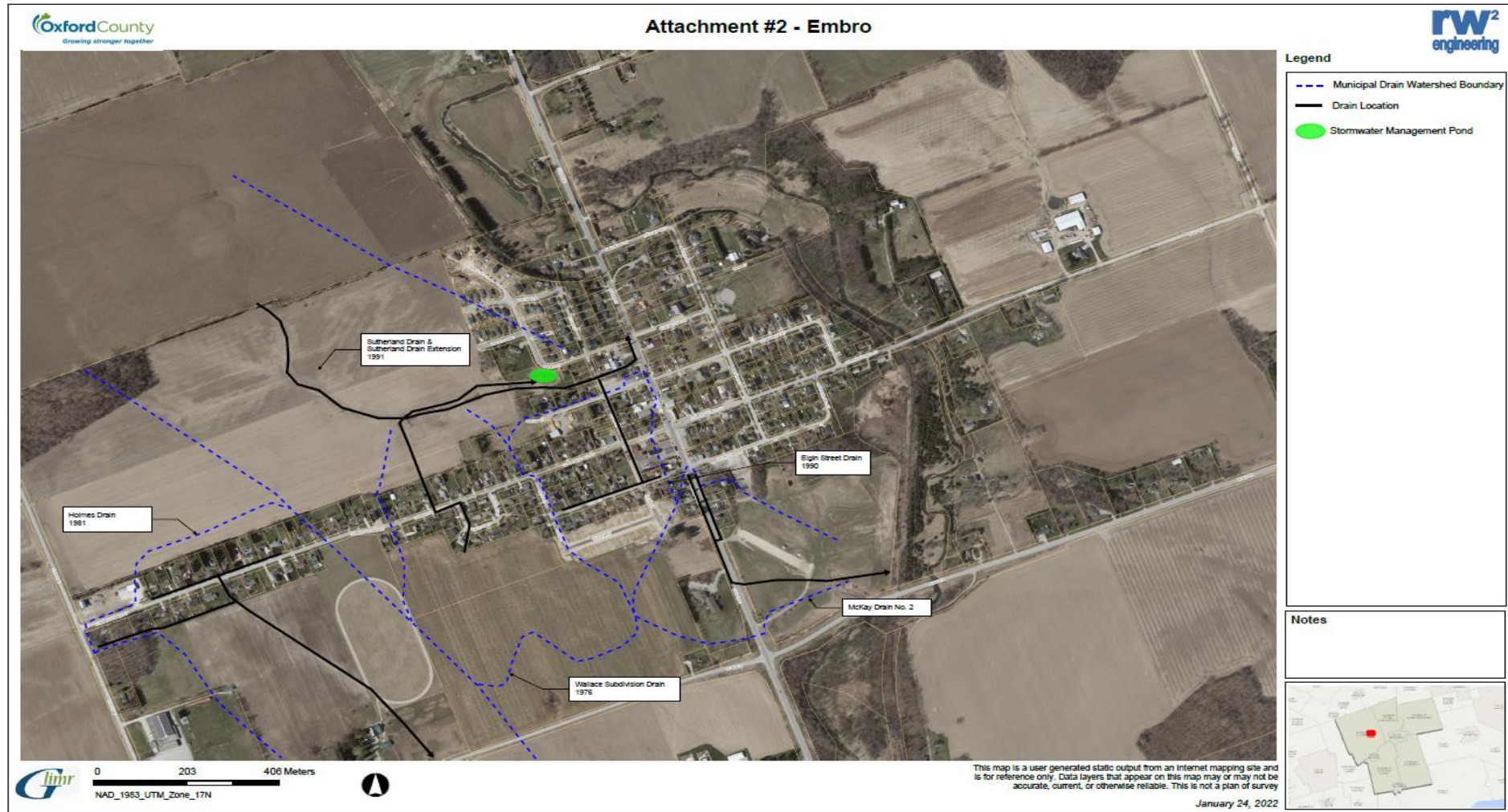
***Reasons for this Project**

- Plan for sustainability of urban storm drain systems
- Storm water systems have been constructed during wastewater servicing (2000 – 2011), as part of new developments and under Drainage Act
- Need a coordinated and fair plan going forward

Zorra Urban Storm Water Operations and Financing Options



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Options Considered

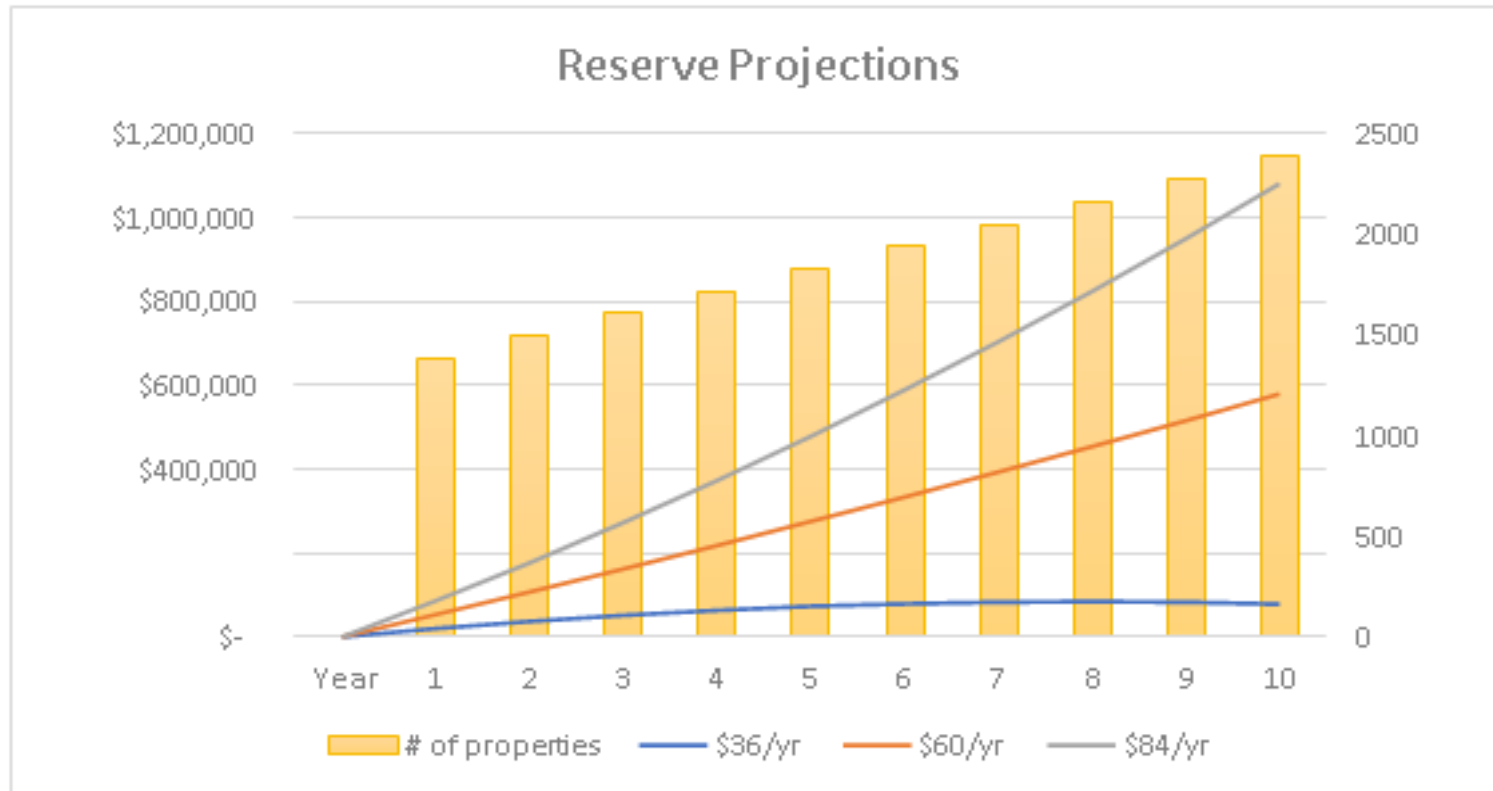
- The *Drainage Act*
- General Taxation
- Storm Water Fee

- All three (3) options are viable
- Need to increase yearly maintenance program; currently \$7,000 per year, will eventually climb to \$100,000 per year (pond cleanouts and infrastructure replacement)
- *Drainage Act* is not well set up for urban project maintenance
- General taxation puts costs onto rural properties that pay maintenance through the *Drainage Act*

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Recommendation

Implementing a storm water fee of \$60 to \$84 per year for properties 0.4 hectare (1 acre) in size or less



questions ?



Notice of Public Consultation

Urban Storm Water System Operations and Financing Options

Engage with us!

The Township of Zorra (Zorra) is looking at options for the sustainable operations and financing of the urban storm water systems in the communities of Embro and Thamesford. The water and wastewater servicing projects over the years 2000 to 2011 also saw all of the existing roads and storm drainage systems rebuilt in these two urban communities. Traditionally, Zorra has used *the Drainage Act* to build and finance Storm Drainage systems but there are other viable options to consider. Zorra has also had new development which has storm sewers as part of the road construction and to date five (5) storm water management ponds.

Zorra has retained rw2 Engineering Ltd to review options for the operations and financing of the urban drainage systems in Embro and Thamesford. The Council Report and an executive summary from the consultant is available for review at <http://www.zorra.ca/Home/Our-Township/Newsroom/>

For the long term sustainability of the urban storm water systems the report from rw2 Engineering Ltd recommends that Zorra implement a yearly storm water fee (similar to water and wastewater fees) to cover the costs of the urban storm water system and over time build dedicated reserves. A fee of \$60 to \$80 per year for properties less than 0.4 hectare (1 acre) is being considered. Other operational recommendations are also proposed in the report.

Public consultation is proposed through the information contained on the Zorra website at <http://www.zorra.ca/Home/Our-Township/Newsroom/> and via an in person public meeting at the Township Office as follows:

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Township of Zorra
274620 27th Line, Ingersoll ON N5C 3K6

The in-person meeting will include a presentation at 5:15 pm, followed by a question and answer session. There will also be opportunity for discussion with staff and the consultant.

Public consultation is important to the success of this study. Please look at the information on the website or contact Zorra (address below) for paper copies of the information. Please make any comments through the form on the website, by mailing and sending in written comments or by attending the in person meeting.

For further information, please use the contact information below.

This notice was first issued on May 16, 2022.

Karen Martin, MPA

Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

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Urban Storm Water System Operations and Financing Options Executive Summary for Public Consultation

The Township of Zorra (Zorra) has two (2) urban areas with municipal water and wastewater systems and urban drainage systems; Embro and Thamesford. The urban drainage systems include catch basins, pipes, maintenance holes and storm water management (SWM) ponds. Both urban areas have experienced growth, and more is projected. Zorra is looking at developing a sustainable operating and financing program for the urban drainage systems, much like water and wastewater rates. rw2 Engineering Ltd was retained to develop options for future operations and financing. The rw2 report was considered at the May 4, 2022 Council meeting and public consultation was approved to get public input on the recommendations. The full rw2 Ltd. Report can be accessed at www.zorra.ca

Drainage systems in the urban areas have been constructed in various ways over the years; using *the Drainage Act*, installed by developers and installed as part of the wastewater servicing projects from 2000 to 2011. Zorra needs to decide the route forward for future maintenance and financing. Fortunately, Zorra is working ahead on this matter, long before expensive maintenance such as storm pond cleanouts are required. Developing an operations and financing plan and then collecting fees over time into a reserve allows for low yearly costs instead of a much higher bill out when maintenance occurs.

The highlights of the report are as follows:

- There are three (3) options to consider for financing the future maintenance:
 - *The Drainage Act*
 - General taxation
 - Storm water fee
- All three (3) alternatives are viable but for each the amount of money needed for maintenance has to be increased for each one; currently \$7,000 per year for catch basin cleaning needs to be increased to \$30,000 per year and eventually to \$100,000 per year over a ten-year period (funding storm water pond cleanouts).
- It is recommended that a storm water fee (\$60 to 80/year for a property of 0.4 hectares or 1 acre) be implemented in 2023. Financial details are included in the report.
- Other operational issues for developing the maintenance program are discussed in the report.

Dated: May 10, 2022