



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG**  
**OFFICE OF ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

*MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

<b>Author's Name: Todd Hewitt</b>	<b>Report Date: November 28, 2022</b>
<b>Author's Phone: 519 7363664 ext. 2313</b>	<b>Date to Council: December 12, 2022</b>
<b>Author's E-mail: thewitt@amherstburg.ca</b>	<b>Resolution #:</b>

**To: Mayor and Members of Town Council**

**Subject: Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion – Tender Results**

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**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The tender for the Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion **BE AWARDED** to Nevan Construction Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$1,178,800.00 plus HST to be funded as outlined in the report from the Manager of Engineering dated November 28, 2022;
2. An over-expenditure not to exceed \$170,690 including net HST **BE APPROVED** to be funded from the Wastewater Reserve; and,
3. The Mayor and Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute an agreement with Nevan Construction Inc. for the Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion.

**2. BACKGROUND:**

In September 2019 the new Edgewater Pumping Station and Kingsbridge Pumping Station were commissioned. These new and upgraded pumping stations, along with the installation of the Edgewater forcemain from the current lagoons site (400m north of County Road 10) to Alma Street diverted all sewage from the Edgewater Lagoons to the Amherstburg Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Edgewater lagoons are no longer operational for sewage treatment other than a small section that will be dedicated as a 'wet weather cell' to be used only during extreme rain/weather events. The decommissioning of the Edgewater Lagoons and conversion to natural wetland with public access is the last project that was part of the Edgewater Sewage Diversion.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

Although the lagoon ponds are no longer required to treat sewage, they still remain under the Town's Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) through the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) as they still contain sanitary sludge. The Town investigated the possibility of removing the sludge to allow for other uses on the property but this was very cost prohibitive (\$2.5m to \$3m) and would only allow for limited use due to the proximity to the wet weather cell. A second option, to convert the lagoon ponds to a wetland with public access was determined to be the best use of the lands. This use is more cost effective and this choice is recognition of the importance of wetlands to the environment.

Wetlands such as the one proposed in Edgewater that have aquatic, marsh, and riparian areas can support a variety of open and treed habitats for fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals and pollinating insects. Leaving the sludge in the ponds is considered to be beneficial as it provides the nutrients needed to attract waterfowl and shorebirds during their migration and breeding seasons, and the sludge can also be cleaned up by the action of the marsh plants. Converting the lagoons into a natural wetland in which sludge degrades gradually through a series of natural processes will require less effort. Water levels can also be controlled among the lagoons to create ideal foraging habitat (mudflats) for migrating shorebirds. The proximity of the lagoons to other existing natural heritage features is a strong indicator that wetland conversion would sustain high levels of flora and fauna biodiversity. Conversion to natural wetlands will enhance the connectivity in the surrounding landscape, and support and enhance existing ecological functions in adjacent areas.

The Town has been working with Stantec Consulting to complete the required sludge sampling to ensure that the proposed use of these cells as a natural wetland poses no risk to humans or animals. After extensive testing, the MECP issued the town an updated ECA that now includes the wetland conversion. With this portion complete, the remaining step was to tender and complete the work.

The wetland conversion will include:

- Creation of the wet weather cell by building a berm in the middle of Cell 3
- 2m wide granular pathway around the two (2) converted cells
- Creation of outcroppings and undulating pond edges to attract varied species of birds and animals
- The creation of islands to alternately provide protected nesting habitat at higher water levels, and exposed mudflats for foraging by migrating shorebirds and ducks during low water levels
- Lowland shrubs and some trees will be introduced to the berms near the water's edge to provide shade to shallow water areas and cover for wildlife.
- Upper berm areas will be enhanced with native shrubs and trees planted in groups to provide shade and habitat and promote natural spread and cover
- 2m granular pathway to connect to Golfview Park
- Parking lot in Golfview Park with access from Linwood Drive

The Town advertised a Request for Tender (RFT) online for this project on September 7, 2022 via Bids and Tenders and on the Town's website.

Tenders closed for this project at 11:00 a.m. on October 6, 2022. The Town received four (4) tender submissions that were processed electronically via the Bids and Tenders system.

The tenders were initially processed electronically to ensure there were no mathematical errors or omissions. The tender results are:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Tender Amount (excluding HST)</u>
1. Nevan Construction Inc.	\$1,178,800.00
2. SheaRock Construction Group Inc.	\$1,300,000.00
3. Rudak Excavating Inc.	\$1,327,700.00
4. Jones Group Ltd.	\$2,995,630.60

Stantec Consulting Ltd. is the consulting engineer that completed the design engineering for this project. They have completed the review of the tender submissions and have recommended that the tender be awarded to the lowest bidder, Nevan Construction Inc. Administration concurs with this recommendation.

#### 4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There is a financial risk to not moving forward. The Town has invested significant time and money working with the MECP to come up with a revised ECA that incorporates the wetland conversion. If Council does not award this tender the Town would need to develop another solution to decommission the lagoons that would be acceptable to the MECP but at the minimum the Town must create the wet weather cell, which was a requirement of the Edgewater Sewage Diversion project.

There is also a political risk as the wetland solution was first approved by Council in 2020 when budget funding was approved for the project. Any deviation from the original plan may face negative feedback from environmental supporters and adjacent homeowners.

#### 5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The financial impact of the Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion is as follows:

Wastewater Budget Centre	Budget	Actual (incl. net HST)	Variance (over)/under
<b>Cost:</b>			
Engineering & Project Management		\$ 222,142	
Construction – Tender Pricing (1)		\$1,199,548	
Subtotal – Base tender	\$1,251,000	\$1,421,690	(\$170,690)
<b>Funding:</b>			
Wastewater User Rates - 2020 Budget	\$351,000	\$351,000	\$ -
Wastewater Reserves – 2021 Budget	\$900,000	\$900,000	-
Wastewater Reserves		\$170,690	(\$170,690)-
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>\$1,397,100</b>	<b>\$1,397,100</b>	<b>-</b>

Notes:

1. The recommended tender includes contingency allowance that can be used for any unforeseen expenditures.

**6. CONSULTATIONS:**

The Manager of Financial Services was consulted on this report.

**7. CONCLUSION:**

Administration recommends that Council award the tender for Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion to Nevan Construction Inc.



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Todd Hewitt

**Manager of Engineering**

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2022 12 12 - Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion - Tender Results.docx
Attachments:	- Stantec Letter of Recommendation - Edgewater Lagoon Conversion.pdf - Edgewater Lagoon Wetland Conversion.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 2, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Antonietta Giofu



Tracy Prince



Valerie Critchley



Kevin Fox