

# 2021 Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update

## Public Information Center No.2 – Comments Received

A live public webinar presentation was held on the evening of Jan 18, 2023 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Following the live webinar event, Public Information Centre (PIC) No. 2 materials were posted on the project website for public review to provide comments to the project team by February 6, 2023. These materials will remain posted on the Master Servicing Plan Update project website:

- Live Webinar Recorded Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32DE9mlqN2s>
- Live Webinar Transcript: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/www-master-servicing-plan/pdf/pic2-presentation.pdf>
- PIC No. 2 Display Boards: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/www-master-servicing-plan/pdf/pic2-display-boards.pdf>

There were 34 attendees at the live webinar event. Following the live webinar, the materials remained open for public review for a 2-week period. During this time, the video received 40 views. Emails were received from interested stakeholders and comments were provided to support the Master Servicing Plan Update evaluation process. Below is a summary of emails and commentary that were provided:

- Received confirmation of review agency contacts;
- Interested residents signed-up to receive future project notices;
- Confirmed that values presented are in current dollars;

The following outlines a list of summarized questions and comments that were provided during the live webinar event and via correspondence received during the 2-week comment period to support the Master Servicing Plan Update.

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### Live Webinar Question #1

Author: [REDACTED]

I submit that the Region should obtain a site, preferably on the west side of the active Welland Canal, for the location of a future relocation of the Welland potable Water Treatment Plant. The location of the current plant is the worst that can be imagined because the site is not large enough for future expansions, and every drop of water discharged from the plant to the distribution system must cross either the Welland River or the Recreational Canal, a very insecure and vulnerable situation.

Response: The project team acknowledged this comment and will document for consideration in the 2021 MSPU.

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## Live Webinar Question #2

Author: [REDACTED]

Do you have cost estimates to send water to and get wastewater from Smithville? Also, is it possible to use a well in Smithville, instead of pumping all that water from Ontario (lower) to Smithville (higher)?

Response: Through the 2021 Niagara MSPU, one of the primary guiding principles is to optimize the use of existing infrastructure where possible. Additionally, cost estimates of future water and wastewater infrastructure will be provided in the 2021 MSPU along with a full list of alternatives and evaluation results regarding opportunities and constraints in meeting servicing needs in Smithville.

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## Live Webinar Question #3

Author: [REDACTED]

It's hard to tell from the maps, but between Vineland and DeCew is the Niagara Escarpment and the Greenbelt. Why are you adding urban services to NEC lands?

Response (provided during live event): The project in question [W-M-016] is a preliminary alignment for watermain twinning. This will be to address security of supply to Vineland from St. Catharines. No additional services or distribution lines will be connected to this as it is a regional watermain.

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## Live Webinar Question #4

Author: [REDACTED]

What is the time frame for connection of Chippawa with the new WWTP?

Response (provided during live event): The provisional timing right now is in the 2031 to 2041 timeframe. Timing is relevant to the magnitude and speed of growth in the local Chippawa area, as well as timing of the Southside low-lift pump station and when its capacity gets utilized or in need of major upgrades.

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## Live Webinar Question #5

Author: [REDACTED]

There's a half-used water treatment facility at the old Abitibi plant...It's still functioning at half-capacity. Can you look at using that instead of transporting it 30 KM to the new Niagara Falls plant?

Response (provided during live event): The former Abitibi facility was an industrial wastewater treatment facility. It really hasn't been used that much in a number of years. The project team's understanding of it is that it's not in good shape and that a detailed assessment has yet to be completed to determine if that would be an appropriate use. Additionally, it is private with a new owner as well. The project team reached a conclusion that it was not an appropriate option moving forward.

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## Live Webinar Question #6

Author: [REDACTED]

What is WS-003 in Fonthill? That appears to be on the protected Fonthill Kame. Can you comment on that particular piece as it's going outside of the urban boundary into the greenbelt and on protective lands that are in ANSI (areas of natural and scientific interest).

Response (provided during live event): That site has gone through a fairly extensive process with the Region, and what was carried forward in the 2021 MSPU is the recommended location and the structure in the Pelham area. The EA documentation outlines the opportunities and constraints, the rationale for the selection of that site and any impacts and appropriate mitigation measures to address any of those concerns. Project information can be found:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/pelham-elevated-tank/>

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## Live Webinar Question #7

Author: [REDACTED]

In Grimsby on the Mountain, I see the watermain will be going up Church Rd. to Elmtree Rd. We own property on [REDACTED] will we be able to connect to it? Also presently all residents on Grimsby Mountain depend on trucking water up Mountain Rd. Is there any plans to add a truck filling station so the trucks don't have to make the dangerous repetitive trip up the hill?

Response (provided during live event): For this watermain, the project team did flag the need to complete an environmental assessment to confirm the future alignment of the watermain. Therefore, the alignment shown may not be the ultimate alignment and there will certainly be opportunity to have that input review through the EA process.

Additionally, the 2021 MSPU focuses on urban areas where urban services are planned. Lastly, anything to do with truck filling station is a local municipal responsibility, the town of Grimsby would have to be the best place to start to inquire about any future truck filling station for water.

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### Live Webinar Question #8

Author: [REDACTED]

The Region adopted the Port Colborne Infrastructure Needs Study 30 years ago identifying wet weather flow as a priority. Subsequent master plans have said the same thing. Virtually nothing has been done. In fact the problem has been exacerbated by continuing to approve developments and increasing upstream pumping stations in Omer Street pumping station catchment area. Many times basements have been flooded with sewage. How will this plan be different than previous plans that have done nothing?

Response (provided during live event): Thank you for bringing up your concerns with the project team and taking the time to participate in this PIC event. We would like to note that through this MSP update, there has been good communication between the Region and the local municipalities to try to identify these priority areas and ensure that the attention is placed and that those programs.

Additionally, we need to keep in mind that this is a two-tier system, where most of the wet weather reduction relies on the municipal side and what the region tries to do is to help local area municipalities to deal with those problems by taking care of regional trunks and other regional infrastructure. One of the projects for Port Colborne that's currently underway now in partnership with the region is a pollution prevention control plan (PPCP) that's really the focus of investigating infrastructure and finding out where inflow and infiltration (regarding the flooding issue that was noted) is coming from and coming up with the best way to deal with these issues.

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### Live Webinar Question #9

Author: [REDACTED]

What annual inflation % is being using to project future construction costs?

Response (provided during live event): The 2021 Niagara MSPU, to a certain degree, stops at the existing or current dollars. The intent is to ensure we're presenting what we believe these projects would cost to construct today. Following this, the project team will work with the Region's finance department to project that cost out into the future.

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### Live Webinar Question #10

Author: [REDACTED]

We have an approved development at [REDACTED]. We have started into our site plan with the Town of Grimsby and learned that there is a section of Storm Water pipe missing between Baker Road and Dorchester Dr. We understand that this pipe needs to be installed for our project to continue. As this is a Regional Road #Hwy. 81. Do you have a timeline for the completion of this?

Response (provided during live event): The Region has been working with another consultant on this. That specific project is in regard to stormwater and the regional road. Updates will be provided as it becomes available.

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### Live Webinar Question #11

Author: [REDACTED]

There is a new Fire Station on top of the mountain on Mountain Rd. Will there be anyway for them to get a water supply?

Response: Through the 2021 MSPU, a list of servicing principles was developed to provide guidance and direction to ensure appropriate system pressures and fire flow. Region and Local Municipalities will work together to ensure coordination of infrastructure of water supply.

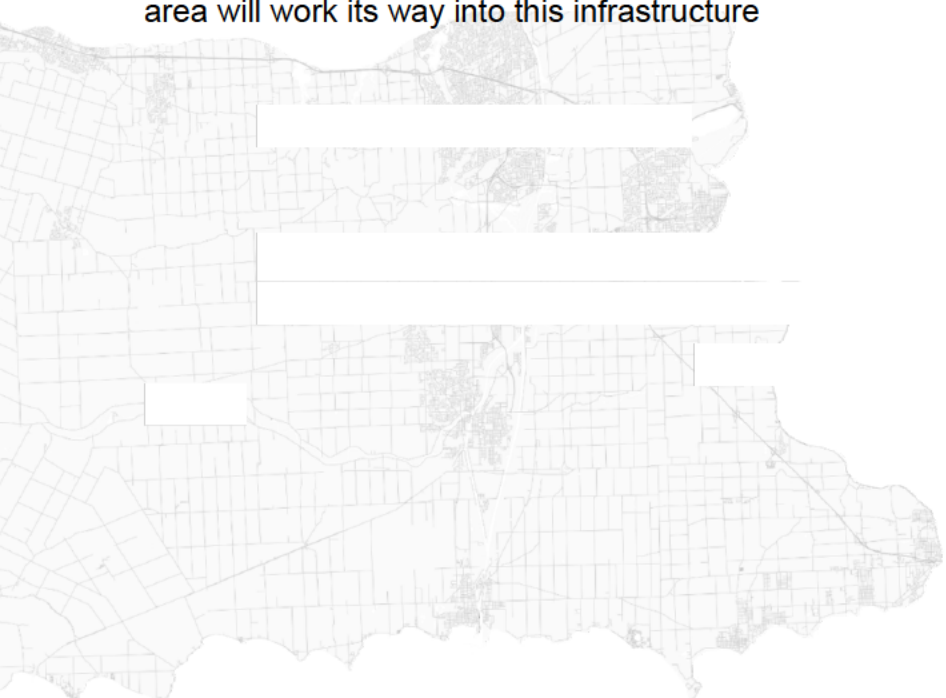
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### Live Webinar Question #12

Author: [REDACTED]

With that transmission [WW-SS-007], is there the idea that the entire area that's now the industrial lands and the Black Horse corner area south in Allanburg...would the idea be that, that would be picked up and now turn those industrial lands would be turned so that wastewater could go into those areas or from those areas.

Response (provided during live event): The infrastructure has been aligned in a way that supports access to the existing lands to service and take those flows to South Niagara Falls. WW-SS-007 is located in a way that it supports those future growth areas in the south-west Niagara Falls area. So a lot of that area would need to be service pipes would need to be in place. And a lot of those locations anyways were able to leverage that. But you are correct that that existing for Old South Service area would then be connected to this new infrastructure. Now some of the further southern limits may require some localized pumping to get back up to that alignment, but we were able to figure out sort of the best combination of location alignment and depth to make best use of what can get service. So yes, the growth in the Thorold South area will work its way into this infrastructure



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### Live Webinar Question #13

Author: [REDACTED]

Vineland to DeCew. I'm not sure if that's the current path that Vineland gets its water from already, but just as you said in the Thorold area, again, if one puts that it's a new pipe, one puts it along Fourth Avenue, there's going to be pressure to use that and develop in that area. And that area as I was trying to look at the maps is certainly in the Greenbelt and possibly in or just on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment lands. Any comment on that and how you kind of balance that with environmental protection, which is so important, you know, these days even more than it was 15 years ago.

If we look at other Greenbelt areas, for example, the Grimsby area that was just expanded by the provincial government into the Greenbelt, one of their excuses was, well, the pipes are right here. So, I think it's something to seriously consider. And maybe it's something for Regional council to consider that pipe and is there a different way to do it?

Response (provided during live event): This is a regional infrastructure that is not intended to have direct connections (see response for questions #3). The alignment is necessary to take advantage of the existing booster station and to continue the flows out there. Design of the infrastructure will look at how it can be constructed with a priority on mitigating negative impacts to environmentally sensitive lands within the Greenbelt and Niagara Escarpment. You are right, that sometimes infrastructure such as this can be perceived with a pipe in that area that may lead to the belief that people right adjacent to it are connected, but that's not the case with this regional infrastructure.

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### Live Webinar Question #14

Author: [REDACTED]

I had asked about costing in Smithville and you alluded to it earlier, the costs of pumping the water from a much lower area, Lake Ontario, up to Smithville in this new growth area, and then taking all the effluent from that area and bringing it back down the escarpment. Did you ever look at wells? I know you started the entire process Chris. Just if you can comment on that and whether you looked at wells as a possibility for the full area and what are the capital costs of all of this? In the in the Smithville area, in particular, with those thousand acres that were added by Regional Council to expand the urban boundary into agricultural lands.

Response (provided during live event): Indeed, a service area of that size is significant enough and to have a groundwater supply and capacity sufficient to take us long term into 2051 and beyond. However, the focus of the 2021 MSPU is to optimize the use of existing infrastructure where possible, and it was felt that this was the most secure and sustainable long-term solution. Cost estimates will be provided (see response to question #2).

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### Live Webinar Question #15

Author: [REDACTED]

Is there sufficient land at the Baker Road plant to handle the increase in sewage coming from West Grimsby? Plus the development in Beamsville and Vineland? Are we looking at a three or four story plant because as I recall, the site is right full at the moment.

Response (provided during live event): Indeed, it is a fairly constrained site, but it is something that working with the Region staff and, some of the site planning, there is an opportunity to achieve that capacity. There's one thing we have been seeing is some efficiency in the technology to support additional capacity within existing footprint. But this isn't one of those cases where, you know, that detailed site plan will need to be prepared as they start planning the additional capacity of that facility.

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### Live Webinar Question #16

Author: [REDACTED]

You've got the Lake Street pumping station ready for some major work, too, because that picks up all of west, basically the old town of Grimsby, also West Grimsby, including what was at Biggar Lagoon. I have no difficulty with that. But I'm wondering, with what's going on, are we getting to the point where we have to start thinking of another plant maybe to serve Lincoln like Beamsville, Lincoln, and Jordan Station?

Response: Through the 2021 Niagara MSPU, one of the primary guiding principles is to optimize the use of existing infrastructure where possible. A full list of alternatives and evaluation results are noted in the 2021 Niagara MSPU and will be available for public review.

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### Live Webinar Question #17

Author: [REDACTED]

The majority of the trunk systems water and sewer the region currently owned were probably constructed in the mid-sixties to the mid-seventies, so it makes them about 50 years old. Are a lot of these facilities, existing facilities getting to the end of their life cycle? It doesn't matter, especially I'm looking at St Catherine's at the Port Dalhousie / Port Weller trunk, and I'm looking there's a huge growth area being proposed around the Glendale area...will they still be taking sewage from the Glendale area through the Queenston siphon? At Homer Bridge? And is that going to have that growth area going to have a very large impact on the on the Port Weller Trunk?

Response (provided during live event): The project team notes the importance in highlighting the Region's state of good repair and sustainability program. With \$1.5 billion invested to ensure that the existing facilities could maintain and meet the needs to connect to. The Region is very much aware of that and we're coordinating both plans, which is the growth related as well as the existing system investment to make sure this plan works.

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## Live Webinar Question #18

Author: [REDACTED]

When we are designing new facilities, are we looking strictly at the planning horizon 2051? Are we looking for these larger structures to be in operation for at least 100 years? And third part of this, when we're building new storage facilities in the water system, are we designing these facilities about as balancing storage facilities or are they going to be balancing storage and fire flow?

Response (provided during live event): While this is a 2051 master plan, we're able to look at some long-term servicing visioning to see what impact it could have on the infrastructure. The project team is trying to size and plan for works that are going to take us beyond 2051. Strategically where it's appropriate, infrastructure oversizing can be incorporated to have capacity beyond 2051. All those elements that you highlight there are taken into consideration as we carry out the master plan now. Ultimately, potential impacts, the future sizing, not just sizing for 2051, where is it appropriate to make something bigger versus what might get twinned or what have you in the future—these are all layered in our strategies.





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## Received Email Correspondence #1

Author: [REDACTED]

According to the slide presented during the meeting (image attached) the Stevensville-Douglastown sewage lagoons are forecast to breach the 80% capacity threshold in 2031 and 90% threshold in 2037. This means the Niagara Region will have (6) years to study and build expanded capacity for those sewage lagoons. Assuming the "worst case" scenario (in terms of time and cost) for expansion of the sewage lagoons capacity will be required (decommission the lagoons and build an on-site mechanical treatment plant), I believe (6) years is not enough time to accomplish the required task. A similar (although smaller) project was undertaken in Niagara-On-The-Lake in 2008 and it took (12) years from start to finish (2008 to 2020).

Response (via email): The Region Project Manager will collect documentation about the NOTL project you are referring to and share with our team for extracting information on the project timing. This will help us in understanding the timing of the upgrades for Stevensville-Douglastown lagoons.

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## Received Email Correspondence #2

Author: [REDACTED]

First, the Region should postpone the proposed expansions of the water and wastewater facilities to accommodate the suburban expansion in Smithville. The newspaper had these costs at at least \$118M! Now that the new development will not be paying for that new servicing, it doesn't at all make sense that the rest of the Region's taxpayers foot the huge bill for this sprawl -- especially when there is ample capacity in other plants (Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Welland). Let that sit for a while until that development can pay for the extra servicing.

Second, please do not build an urban water tank on the protected lands of the Fonthill Kame. The planning does not allow for you to do it. Yet, you appear to be plowing ahead at building the new tank and overflow pond on lands protected by both the Greenbelt and the Provincial Earth Science ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest). In fact, you will note from the map, that the Site #3 lands are specifically in the ANSI; please see:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/icp/pdf/Core-Natural-Heritage-Map.pdf>

Protecting the Fonthill Kame from further developments took years and years; please see this Regional report to help understand the Kame's importance: "ICP 62-2013 - Fonthill Kame-Delta ANSI Proposed Boundary, June 20, 2013." It would be a travesty if a water tank to help improve water pressure in the suburban area would encroach on and negatively impact this important geological feature! In fact, it could signal to other developers or property owners (including the quarry) that they can start developing their properties. Finally, the zoning will not allow for the tank. The exemption that allows the golf driving range only allows that or agricultural uses. This urban use is the absolute furthest from an agricultural use.

Response: The project team acknowledged this comment and will document for consideration in the 2021 MSPU. Regarding Fonthill Kame, see answer to question #6.