

DATE: May 16, 2022

REPORT NO: PW-10-2022

SUBJECT: **Wind Project Tree Replacement Program Update**

CONTACT: Ray Vachon, C.E.T. – Project Manager
Mike DiPaola, P. Eng. – Director of Public Works & Recreation

OVERVIEW:

- In 2019, a mutual agreement between the Wind Project proponent and the Township, amended the original Road Use Agreement (circa 2014) which gave the Township a lump sum of \$624,000 to replace trees taken down during the Windfarm Project.
- In 2021, staff issued a pre-qualification/expressions of interest procurement process for tree planting services which resulted in 4 tree farm/contractor consortiums submitting a proposal, and subsequently the work was divided equally amongst the 4 proponents.
- Some planting began in late Fall of 2021, and has now resumed in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, Information Report PW-10-2022; re: Wind Project Tree Replacement Program Update, dated May 16, 2022, be received for information.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme # 5

Community Health and Safety – Continue to be a safe community where all residents are supported to thrive throughout their lives.

BACKGROUND:

Section 10.3 of the Road Use Agreement (RUA), between the Township of West Lincoln and the Proponent of the Wind Project, dealt with trees that were removed as part of the Wind Project and outlined how the removed trees are to be treated.

Once the Wind Project was completed, an Amendment to the RUA with respect to the Proponent's obligations under Section 10.3 was discussed by both parties. A mutual release and settlement agreement was reached by both parties in December of 2019, in which the Township received \$624,000. These funds are to be used to replant trees that were removed as part of the Wind Project.

Report PW-10-2021, dated April 2021, outlined the Township's protocol/process to implement a tree replacement program that would fairly distribute and compensate the affected property owners for the trees removed on the abutting road allowances, by providing them with the option of having trees planted on their lands.

Report PW-19-2021, dated September 2021, Council approved the "roster list" to complete the tree replacement work. Following Council's approval in September, staff divided the work equitably between the 4 contractors with the intention of starting some tree planting in the Fall of 2021. By the end of November 2021, just under 500 trees had been planted.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Due to the really wet spring, all the contractors had to wait longer than originally planned to restart the planting operations to avoid damaging the various homeowner's property.

As of the end of April 2022, an additional 200 trees have been planted. Staff reviewed monies spent to date and if any overages had occurred, but everything was still within the allotted budget.

Staff then prorated the remaining funds to the upset limited of \$624,000 among those affected from the original Wind Project tree removal, and authorized and divided the work equally between the 4 contractors to finish the planting program this Spring.

The program should be completed in 6 weeks, weather permitting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications to the Township.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

N/A

CONCLUSION:

The Wind Project Tree Replacement Program report is being provided as and update for information purposes and to inform that the program will be completed as agreed in the amended Road Use Agreement.

Prepared and Submitted by:

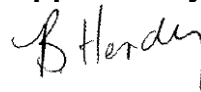


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Project Manager



Mike DiPaola, P. Eng.
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Approved by:



Beverly Hendry
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)