



Staff Report

Operations – Water & Wastewater Services

Report To: COW - Operations, Planning and Building Services
Meeting Date: August 25, 2026
Report Number: OPS.26.047
Title: Extended Work Hours TWWTP Outfall
Prepared by: Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.26.047, entitled “Extended Work Hours TWWTP Outfall” for their information

B. Overview

This Staff Report is to inform Council of the Wastewater Effluent Outfall Contractor will be working extended hours offshore, beyond the Town’s Municipal Boundary.

C. Background

Construction of the Effluent Outfall is subject to environmental timing restrictions. The shoreline of Georgian Bay provides protected fish habitat, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada permits in-water and shoreline work only between July 1 and September 30 each year. As a result, the available construction window is limited.

If the in-water and shoreline work cannot be completed within the 2026 construction window, the remaining work cannot resume until July 1, 2027. This delay would significantly increase project costs due to remobilization, winter protection measures for partially completed works, and extended project administration. As well, the residents would have to endure another summer of construction.

In addition to the regulatory timing window, installation of the Effluent Outfall is dependent on favourable weather and water conditions on Georgian Bay. The Town provided regulatory relief from the Town’s Noise By-law to allow for full day Saturday construction.

On July 18th and 19th, 2026, the dredge site was impacted with four-to-six-foot swells, and the turbidity curtain was significantly damaged. This has resulted in a delay due to restoration of the damaged site, and consultation and re-evaluation of the activities by the regulatory agencies. The Contractor lost approximately two weeks of construction.

D. Analysis

The Contractor has identified significant challenges in completing the work within the required timeline and has requested additional working hours to mitigate the risk of not completing the installation prior to the closing of the fisheries window.

The Contractor was previously permitted to work extended hours on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Despite this extension, there remains a high level of uncertainty regarding the Contractor's ability to complete the installation of the outfall pipe within the required timeframe.

The Contractor has therefore submitted a further request for additional working hours as follows:

- **Monday to Friday:** 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Saturday:** 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The intent is to use these additional hours primarily for less disruptive construction activities. The extended work period would be dedicated to offshore operations occurring within the water and at considerable distance from the shoreline, thereby minimizing potential impacts associated with construction noise and disturbance to nearby residents.

Pursuant to Section 19 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, municipal by-laws generally apply only within the boundaries of the municipality. Where construction activities are undertaken outside the Town of The Blue Mountains' municipal boundary, the Town's Noise By-law does not apply to those activities. Accordingly, the Town's Noise By-law cannot generally regulate offshore activities solely because noise generated by those activities may be audible from Thornbury.

The Contractor will not be permitted to undertake construction-type activities that generate noise within the municipal boundary during the newly requested extended hours. The previously approved extension permitting Saturday work from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. remains in effect, except during the Labour Day weekend.

Any offshore work undertaken outside the Town's municipal boundary during the newly requested hours would remain subject to all applicable provincial and federal legislation, regulations, permits, approvals, and conditions governing the work.

Next Steps

Understanding resident concerns with the on-going work particularly related to short and long-term impacts to Georgian Bay, a community information meeting is being organized that will be inclusive of staff, regulatory authorities and consultants involved in the project. The intent will be to reinforce project purpose and outcomes alongside ensuring understanding on key issues

principally being the temporary nature of the berm/platform and restoration of the project area.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

The new effluent outfall will reduce the impacts of the effluent on the receiving waters of Georgian Bay by being located farther offshore in deeper water, where improved dilution and mixing conditions will enhance dispersion.

G. Financial Impacts

The budget for this project was approved as part of the 2026 Town Approved Budget, and all costs remain within the approved amount.

H. In Consultation With

Debbie Young, Manager of By-Law & Licensing

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services managerwww@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Kershaw,
Manager of Water & Wastewater Services

Adam Smith
CAO

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	OPS.26.047 Extended Work Hours TWWTP Outfall.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 14, 2026

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

Allison Kershaw - Aug 14, 2026 - 11:40 AM

Adam Smith - Aug 14, 2026 - 5:21 PM