

To:	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	April 26, 2018
Subject / Report No:	TR-CW-24-18
Title:	Aggregate Testing Laboratory
Prepared by:	Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation Services
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Township of Chatsworth and Township of Southgate
Status:	Recommendation adopted as presented by Committee of the Whole per Resolution CW111-18; Endorsed by County Council on May 10, 2018.

Recommendation

1. That report TR-CW-24-18 regarding the Grey County aggregate testing laboratory be received and that the Grey County testing laboratory be closed and assets associated with the laboratory be sold.

Executive Summary

In 2009, the Grey County aggregate testing laboratory was certified for granular testing by the Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories (CCIL).

The number of tests completed by the laboratory has been dropping for the past six years and currently 95% of Transportation Services' testing is being completed by a consultant quality assurance lab at a comparable cost.

Transportation Services is recommending that the laboratory be closed and the corresponding assets be sold. Grey County will include any testing completed by the laboratory in the annual quality assurance tender.

Background and Discussion

In 2009, Grey County certified its aggregate testing laboratory through the CCIL at a cost of \$1,500 per year. As the Grey County aggregate laboratory had been testing material on Grey County construction projects, it was thought that the laboratory should be certified to confirm all testing procedures adhere to industry quality assurance standards.

In 2017, the Maintenance/Asset Management Technologist completed a review of the laboratory, investigating the testing costs for Grey County versus the testing costs of the industry. Grey County currently hires a consultant to complete all quality assurance testing for the construction tenders.

Challenges of Operating a Quality Assurance Laboratory

- Grey County reduced the number of internal construction activities and the corresponding amount of granular tests. Less than 20 tests per year have been completed in the last three years. The lack of practice at completing tests makes it difficult to maintain our certification. Issues with our CCIL correlation have occurred in the last two years.
- Grey County has been completing some testing for the member municipalities for \$45, while it costs Grey County just over \$300 to complete the tests.
- The internal laboratory testing costs are similar to consultant quality assurance laboratory costs.
- The current laboratory trailer and testing equipment is aging and those future replacement costs should ideally be carried in the testing costs. This hasn't been completed.

In early 2018, Transportation Services contacted the member municipalities to obtain comments on the proposed laboratory closure. The majority had no concerns and did not utilize the service. Those that did appreciated the financial challenges the laboratory is facing. The County has completed only nine tests for the member municipalities over the last three years.

The testing laboratory trailer has historically been the summer bridge crew office. The Chatsworth building renovations in 2018 will include a summer office for the Bridge Foreman.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Transportation Services will continue to contract quality assurance testing to a certified laboratory. Liability will be decreased when the testing is completed by others.

Financial and Resource Implications

Internal versus contracted testing prices are similar. Grey County's testing costs have been underestimated, as no provision for replacing the laboratory trailer has been incorporated. Grey County will receive funds from the sale of the laboratory assets (trailer, sieves, scales, oven, etc.) on GovDeals.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal
- External – Public Works Managers from all member municipalities

Appendices and Attachments

None