

North Huron council moves forward with Howson Dam environmental assessment

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Council awarded the Howson Dam environmental assessment (EA) to GSS Engineering Consultants Ltd. The Owen Sound engineering firm won the request for proposal with the highest scoring proposal received, scoring 83 out of 100 on a scale that ranked companies according to their experience, methodology and proposed work plan among others qualifications.

The total estimated cost of the EA, proposed by GSS Engineering Consultants Ltd. is \$88,815 excluding HST and Molenhuis said the assessment is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The Howson Dam project was identified in the roads department 2016 capital budget and \$80,000 was added to the budget for the assessment.

In accepting the report on Aug. 2, council agreed that approximately \$9,000 would be taken from the Howson Dam reserve to fund the remaining budget needed. The projected balance of the dam reserve is to be approximately \$121,000.

The township received seven bids from proponents from Goderich, Guelph, Mississauga, Peterborough and as far as Ottawa.

Those proposing were asked to provide a work plan for thorough investigation of the primary options for the dam: 1. Do nothing; 2. Rehabilitate the dam; 3. Rebuild the dam; and decommission the dam.

They were also asked to include life cycle costs of dam and the capability of hydro-electric power into their work plan for evaluation.

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