RECOMMENDATION

That the Salt Management Plan 2019 Update attached as Schedule A to staff report 2019-0206, be approved; and

That a copy of the Proposed Salt Management Plan be provided to Environment Canada, for information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- To inform Council on recent amendments to the 2016 Salt Management Plan and report on the efforts to mitigate the negative effect which salt has on the environment, vulnerable areas, municipal infrastructure and public/private property.

DISCUSSION

Road Salts are used in Canada as de-icing and anti-icing chemicals for winter road maintenance, and less commonly as summer dust suppressants.

Under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, the Federal Government of Canada published a “Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts” (the “Code of Practice”) in 2004. The Code of Practice is designed to help municipalities and other road authorities better manage the use of road salts to reduce the environmental impact while maintaining road safety.

A comprehensive five-year scientific assessment by Environment Canada in 2005, determined that in sufficient concentrations, road salts pose a risk to plants, animals and the aquatic environment. A Risk Management Strategy for Road Salts was subsequently developed to outline the measures that Environment Canada proposes in order to manage the risks associated with the application and use of road salts.

The Code of Practice recommends that road authorities prepare salt management plans that identify actions they will take to improve salt management practices including storage, general use on roads and snow disposal. Environment Canada has completed their Five-year Review of Progress and has stated that the Code of Practice has been effective in increasing the use of best practices for managing road salts in Canada. The Code of Practice and Review were developed in consultation with a Multi-Stakeholder Working Group for Road Salts.
Existing Salt Management Plan

In 2005, the Town prepared its first Salt Management Plan which was subsequently adopted by Council and submitted to Environment Canada. Since the last update in 2016, a number of changes have taken place that warrants an update to the Town’s Salt Management Plan. These changes can be summarized as follows:

- Updated road inventory
- Eliminated the application of winter sand on Town roads
- Reduced material application rates
- Salt Vulnerable Areas
- Ontario Minimum Maintenance Standards

The above changes are detailed in the Salt Management Plan 2019 Update attached as Schedule A to this report, staff report 2019-0206.

The Town’s Salt Management Plan is activity-based and follows an Environmental Management System framework. It includes the following elements:

- Periodic review and analysis of legislative requirements and industry practices
- Implementation and documentation of the Salt Management Plan
- Education and training of staff
- Monitoring and analysis of operations
- Management review and revisions
- Environmental review
- Policy and practices revisions

The implementation and improvement of the Town’s Salt Management Plan will promote the continuous development of practices and procedures to improve winter maintenance activities while striving to reduce the effects of road salt on the environment. The Salt Management Plan is a dynamic and living document; it will be reviewed and refined on an on-going basis and will function at all levels of the organization. All personnel related to winter maintenance have a role in ensuring that the Salt Management Plan is implemented, monitored, improved and updated.

In order to provide a safe transportation network and meet Environment Canada’s goal of managing the use of salt for winter maintenance, it is recommended that the Proposed Caledon Salt Management Plan, as amended and attached as Schedule A to this report, be adopted.
The Salt Management Plan 2019 Update, attached as Schedule A to this report will replace the Town of Caledon’s Salt Management Plan adopted by Council in 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications to this report.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Improved Service Delivery - improve roads and long term plan to maintain roads to standard

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Salt Management Plan 2019 Update