



By-Law No. 3 - 2026 – Schedule ‘A’

Procurement of Goods and Services and Disposal of Assets Policy

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Policy Lead: Director, Regional Water

1. Purpose

This Policy establishes the procurement and disposal processes to ensure best value, fairness, and accountability in the acquisition of goods, services, construction, and the disposal of assets for the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (Huron). This Policy confirms Huron as the sole authority governing all procurement and disposal activities related to its operations and capital projects.

2. Applicability

Procurement activities conducted for the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (Huron) shall be governed by all applicable Board policies and by-laws, the relevant provisions of the *Municipal Act 2001*, and all applicable Federal and Provincial legislation. Procurement authority rests solely with Huron under this Policy.

Services performed by the Administering Municipality on behalf of Huron, when requested or required by the Board, are excluded from the scope of this Policy, and such services shall not be construed as procurement activities governed by this Policy.

3. Definitions

In this Policy, unless a contrary intention appears,

Acting – shall mean the formal delegation of authority by the person in the position of authority to the person acting in that role on a temporary basis.

Addendum (and ‘Addenda’) – shall mean the form of a document used to officially change, and delete information contained within a Competitive Bid. By issuing an Addendum, the Competitive Bid itself changes to incorporate the Addendum.

Administering Municipality – shall mean the Corporation of the City of London, as outlined in Transfer Order Lake Huron Area #W1/1998 issued by the Minister of the Environment effective September 15, 2000, pursuant to the *Municipal Water and Sewage Systems Transfer Act, 1997*, who provides services to and under the direction of the Board, as amended from time to time.

Agreement – shall mean a formal written legal agreement or contract for the supply of goods, services, equipment or construction.

Award – shall mean a bid is formally accepted by Huron and has obtained the required approval as defined in Section 4.7.5 and Schedule “A”. An award may be executed by the issuance of a Purchase Order, Contract Record or formal Agreement.

Best Value – shall mean the optimal balance of performance and cost determined in accordance with a pre-defined evaluation plan. Best value may include a time horizon that reflects the overall life cycle of a given asset.

Bid – shall mean a response to a competitive bid issued by Huron.

Bidder – shall mean a person, corporation or other entity that responds, or intends to respond to a competitive bid.

Bid Deposit – shall mean currencies, certified cheques, bid bond issued by a surety company licensed to operate by the Government of Canada or the Province of Ontario or another form of negotiable instrument acceptable to Huron to compensate Huron if the successful bidder does not enter into a contract.

Blanket Purchase Contract – shall mean any contract for the purchase of goods and services which will be required frequently or repetitively but where the exact quantity of goods and services required may not be precisely known or the time period during which the goods and services are to be delivered may not be precisely determined.

Board of Management (and Board) – shall mean the Board of Management for the Lake Huron Water Supply System as established under the *Municipal Water and Sewage Systems Transfer Act, 1997* and pursuant to Transfer Order Lake Huron Area #W1/1998 dated effective September 15, 2000.

Board Member – shall mean a member of the Board of Management as appointed in accordance with the Appointment of Board Members Bylaw.

Certificate of Clearance – shall mean certificate issued by an authorized official of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board certifying that the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board waives its rights under Subsection 141(10) of the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, R.S.O. 1997*, as amended.

CETA – shall mean the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement** between Canada and the European Union, as amended from time to time, including any applicable procurement obligations and threshold values in effect at the time of procurement.

CFTA – shall mean the **Canadian Free Trade Agreement** that came into force on July 1, 2017, and governs trade and procurement obligations between Canadian provinces, territories, and public sector entities, as amended from time to time.

Chief Administrative Officer – shall mean the person appointed as the Chief Administrative Officer in accordance with the Appointment of the Chief Administrative Officer By-law.

Competitive Bid – shall mean a REOI, RFI, RFQual, RFP, IRFQ, RFQ or RFT as further defined in this section.

Consultant – shall mean an external subject matter expert that provides advisory services and direction to Huron when it requires competency and capacity for a particular procurement that is not available in-house.

Contract (and ‘Contracting’) – shall mean any formal or deliberate written agreement for the purchase of goods, services, equipment or construction including but not limited to Purchase Order and Agreement. Standard contracts may be used for the acquisition of goods and services for a specific requirement. Corporate contracts may be used for the acquisition of goods and services for a group of specific requirements.

Conflict of Interest – shall mean a situation in which the personal interests of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Regional Water and/or Regional Water staff come into conflict, or appear to come into conflict, with the interests of Huron.

Contract Record – shall mean a document which summarizes the goods and services to be purchased.

Declaration Respecting Workers’ Compensation Act, R.S.O. 1990/Corporations Tax Act – shall mean a declaration that the bidder has paid all assessments or compensation payable and has otherwise complied with all requirements of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and that the bidder has paid all taxes and penalties imposed on it pursuant to the *Corporations Tax Act*, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER C.40, as amended.

Delegate - shall mean a person who has been delegated approval authority by a position with authority under this Policy (Section 4.7.7) and pursuant to the Delegation of Powers and Duties Policy.

Delegation of Approval Authority - shall mean the formal delegation of authority to perform a specific task or approval by a person in a position with authority under this Policy (Section 4.7.7) and pursuant to the Delegation of Powers and Duties Policy, resulting in a ‘delegate’.

Delegation of Approval Authority List - shall mean a list prepared by the Director of Regional Water granting the formal delegation of authority to perform a task or approval (Section 4.7.7).

Director of Regional Water – shall mean the Director of Regional Water of the Regional Water division of the City of London seconded to Huron for the purpose of administration, management, and oversight of Huron.

Dispute Committee - means a committee established by Huron and comprised of the Director of Regional Water (or delegate), a senior representative from the procurement function of Huron (or delegate), and a Senior Manager (or delegate) of Huron, convened to review and resolve procurement related disputes in accordance with this Policy.

Emergency – shall mean a situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property or the significant impairment of water quality and quantity and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident, or an act whether intentional or otherwise.

Employee-Employer Relationship – shall mean a worker agrees to work for Huron, on a full-time or part-time basis, for a specified or indeterminate period of time, in return for wages or a salary. Huron has the right to decide where, when and how the work is to be done.

Executed Agreement – shall mean a formal agreement, either incorporated in the bid documents or prepared by Huron or its agents, executed by the successful bidder and Huron.

Goods and Services – shall mean supplies, services, materials and equipment of every kind required to be used to carry out the operations of Huron.

Huron – shall mean the Lake Huron Water Supply System as established under the *Municipal Water and Sewage Systems Transfer Act, 1997* and pursuant to Transfer Order Lake Huron Area #W1/1998 dated effective September 15, 2000 and shall include the staff of the Regional Water division of the City of London seconded to Huron for the purpose of administration, management, and oversight of Huron.

Informal Request for Quotation (IRFQ) – shall mean a request for prices on specific goods and services from selected suppliers which are submitted in writing, or as specified in the Informal Request for Quotation.

Insurance Documents – shall mean official original documents issued by an insurance company acceptable to Huron and, preferably, licensed to operate by the Government of Canada or the Province of Ontario certifying that the bidder is insured in accordance with Huron's insurance requirements and completed on Huron standard insurance form(s); as contained in the competitive bid document or at the time of execution of an Agreement.

Irregular Result – shall mean as defined in Section 4.7.10.

Irregularities Contained in Bids – shall mean as defined in Schedule "C" and includes the appropriate response to those irregularities.

Irrevocable Letter of Credit – shall mean an irrevocable letter on the financial institution's standard form containing a request that the party to whom it is addressed pay the bearer or a person named therein money as a result of failure to perform or fulfill all the covenants, undertakings, terms, conditions and agreements contained in a contract.

Labour and Material Bond – shall mean a bond issued by a surety company on Huron's standard Form of Bond to ensure that the contractor will fulfill its obligations to its employees, subcontractors and suppliers and thereby protect Huron.

Letter of Agreement to Bond – shall mean a letter or other form issued by a surety company licensed to operate by the Government of Canada or the Province of Ontario advising that, if the bidder is successful the bonding agency will issue the required bonds.

MEA Consulting Services Agreement – shall mean the MEA/ACEC Ontario Client/Engineer Agreement for Professional Consulting Services template documents.

Obsolete – shall mean Huron assets that are no longer current or have no functional use due to being replaced by newer assets and still may have some economic value.

Pecuniary Interest – shall mean the opportunity, directly or indirectly, to profit or share in any profit derived from a competitive bid or agreement.

Performance Bond – shall mean a bond issued by a surety company on Huron standard Form of Bond executed in connection with a contract and which secures the performance and fulfillment of the undertakings, covenants, terms, conditions and agreements contained in the contracts. These may also be in the form of 'renewable performance bonds.

Procurement Manager – shall mean an employee of Regional Water responsible for the overall management, oversight, and coordination of procurement activities for Huron. The Procurement Manager provides professional procurement advice, establishes procurement processes and controls, ensures compliance with this Policy and applicable trade agreements, and makes procurement recommendations in accordance with approved approval authorities.

Procurement Officer – shall mean an employee of Regional Water Services responsible for administering and overseeing procurement activities for Huron. The Procurement Officer may delegate certain procurement functions to qualified staff (such as a Procurement Specialist or Clerk), provided that overall accountability and authority remain with the Procurement Officer. Procurement authority resides exclusively within Huron governance and shall not be delegated to the Administering Municipality or to external parties.

Professional Consulting Services – shall mean a consulting firm, engineer or architect providing professional knowledge or design or technical expertise.

Proponent – shall mean the respondent to a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Purchase Order – shall mean the standard procurement document issued by Huron, or the Administering Municipality on behalf of Huron, to formalize a purchasing transaction with a supplier.

Purchase Requisition – shall mean a duly authorized written or electronically produced request in an approved format to obtain goods or services.

Purchasing Card – shall mean a credit card provided by the Administering Municipality to a Regional Water employee, and its use is bound by the provisions of this Policy and the Administering Municipality's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

Regional Water – shall mean the Regional Water division of the City of London seconded to Huron for the purpose of administration, management, and oversight of Huron, including staff assigned to the Regional Water division.

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) - shall mean a focused market research tool used to determine supplier interest in a proposed procurement. It may be issued simultaneously with a Request for Qualifications (RFQUAL) when the proposed procurement is well defined, and the purchaser has clear expectations for the procurement.

Request for Information (RFI) – shall mean a general market research tool to determine which products and services are available, scope out business requirements, and estimate project costs which may be used prior to issuing another type of competitive bid.

Request for Proposal (RFP) - shall mean a process where a need is identified, but the method by which it will be achieved is not prescribed at the outset. This process allows prospective suppliers and bidders to propose solutions or methods to arrive at the desired result.

Request for Qualifications (RFQUAL) shall mean a request for a list of qualified suppliers and firms who have an interest in providing services to Huron, typically through a two-stage process.

Request for Quotation (RFQ) – shall mean a request for prices on specific goods and services as specified in the Request for Quotation.

Request for Tender (RFT) – shall mean a request for sealed bids which contain an offer in writing to execute some specified services, or to supply certain specific goods, at a certain price, in response to a publicly advertised request for bids.

Scrap – shall mean Huron assets that no longer have the ability to function for their original design in their current state and have minimal economic value other than primarily for recycling value.

Sealed Bid – shall mean a formal sealed response received as part of a competitive bid.

Single Source – shall mean that there is more than one source of supply in the open market, but only one source is recommended due to predetermined and approved specifications. Further qualifications appear in the definition in Section 14.12.4.

Sole Source – shall mean that the goods and services are available from only one supplier. Further qualifications appear in the definition in Section 14.12.3.

Substantive Objection – shall mean an unsuccessful bidder request moving to the third stage of dispute resolution as prescribed in Section 4.2.6.

Supplier – shall mean any individual or organization providing goods or services to Huron including but not limited to contractors, consultants, suppliers, service organizations etc.

Supplier Conduct – shall mean the ethical, environmental, labour, safety and human rights standards required of all Suppliers engaging with Huron.

Surplus – shall mean Huron assets that exceed the portion that is utilized by Huron, may be current, may have functional use and still have some economic value.

Sustainable Purchasing – shall mean a procurement approach that considers the full life-cycle costs and benefits of goods, services, and construction, including economic, environmental, and social impacts, to achieve best value for Huron. For guidance, Huron may reference the City of London’s Sustainable Purchasing program, as appropriate.

Suspension – shall mean a temporary prohibition preventing a Supplier from participating in procurement opportunities issued by Huron.

Tender – shall mean a sealed bid which contains an offer in writing to execute some specified services, or to supply certain specified goods, at a certain price, in response to a publicly advertised request for bids.

Transfer Order – shall mean Transfer Order Lake Huron #W1/1998 dated effective September 15, 2000, issued by the Minister of the Environment pursuant to the *Municipal Water and Sewage Systems Transfer Act, 1997*.

Triggering Event – shall mean an occurrence resulting from an unforeseen action or consequence of an unforeseen event, which must be remedied on a time sensitive basis to avoid a material financial risk to Huron or serious or prolonged risk to persons or property.

Value Analysis – shall mean a life cycle costing approach to valuing a given alternative, which calculates the long term expected impacts of implementing the particular option.

4. Procurement Policy

4.1 Procurement Goals and Objectives

- 4.1.1 Policy outlines the processes to be followed in order to obtain the best value when purchasing goods, contracting for services, or disposing of assets having monetary value for Huron.
- 4.1.2 The guiding principle of this Policy is that procurement decisions shall be made through a competitive process that is open, fair, and transparent, and that the disposal of Huron-owned assets shall be undertaken with the knowledge and oversight of the Board. Huron procurement activities shall also be conducted in compliance with applicable trade agreements, including the CFTA and the CETA, which support open, non-discriminatory competition and the achievement of best value for Huron.
- 4.1.3 Huron encourages innovation and the use of appropriate technology which meets Huron specifications and industry standards in order to ensure the utilization of the most efficient and effective procurement processes and practices.
- 4.1.4 Huron will consider the total costs including, but not limited to, the cost of acquisition, operation, training, maintenance, quality, warranty, payment terms, disposal value and disposal costs in evaluating competitive bids from responsive and responsible bidders. Where costs are submitted for more than one year, the net present value of the annual costs will be used to evaluate the costs at a discount value.

- 4.1.5 Huron shall integrate environmental, social, economic, and lifecycle considerations into procurement planning and evaluations. Sustainability criteria may include lifecycle costing, energy efficiency, climate resilience, durability of water infrastructure assets, waste reduction, greenhouse gas minimization, and Supplier sustainability performance. Huron may reference the City of London Sustainable Purchasing Program for guidance, provided such reference does not supersede or conflict with Huron authority.

4.2 General Provisions

- 4.2.1 Unless otherwise provided in this Policy, the Director of Regional Water is authorized to act on behalf of Huron for the procurement and disposal of goods and services and shall ensure that such activities are conducted in accordance with the procurement methods and requirements set out in this Policy.

The Director may delegate the day-to-day administration and oversight of procurement activities to the Procurement Manager and the Procurement Officer, who shall jointly be responsible for planning, coordinating, and managing procurement processes, ensuring compliance with this Policy, and providing professional procurement advice and recommendations in support of procurement decisions.

This Policy shall be administered in compliance with applicable trade agreements, including the CFTA and the CETA. Where procurement values exceed applicable trade agreement thresholds, Huron shall comply with the associated transparency, open competition, and non-discrimination obligations.

- 4.2.2 No purchase of goods and services shall be authorized unless it is in compliance with this Policy. Goods and services that are obtained without following the provisions of this Policy will not be accepted, and any invoices received may not be processed for payment.
- 4.2.3 Unless otherwise provided in accordance with this Policy, the purchase of all goods and services shall be authorized in accordance with the provisions of Schedule "A" to this Policy.
- 4.2.4 Requisitions or purchase orders shall not be arbitrarily structured to alter the relationship of the price to the preauthorized expenditure limit.
- 4.2.5 The procedures prescribed in this Policy shall be followed to make an award or to make a recommendation for an award to the Board.
- 4.2.6 Huron recognizes that errors, misunderstandings, or differing interpretations may occur during a procurement process and that bidders may feel aggrieved by a recommended contract award. To maintain the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the procurement process, a bidder who believes it has been treated unfairly may raise the concern by submitting a written notice to the Procurement Manager, with a copy to the Director of Regional Water, prior to the award of the contract.

A bidder wishing to formally dispute the recommended award must submit a written appeal within two (2) business days of being notified by Huron that its bid or proposal was not successful. Upon receipt, the Procurement Manager shall acknowledge the dispute and coordinate a hearing meeting with the Director of Regional Water (or delegate).

The hearing meeting shall be held within seven (7) business days of the bidder's notification and shall provide the bidder with an opportunity to present the basis of the dispute.

Where the bidder disagrees with the outcome of the hearing meeting, the bidder may submit a further written appeal to the Huron Board within seven (7) business days of receiving the written decision arising from the hearing meeting. The Board shall consider the appeal and render a determination. The Board's decision shall be final.

Huron may, in its absolute sole discretion, reject any other bids submitted if the bidder, or any officer of the bidder, is or has been engaged, either directly or indirectly through another Corporation or personally, in/or during a dispute appeal of decision for the contract award action against Huron.

In determining whether or not to reject a bid under this clause, Huron will consider delays in awards of this or subsequent contracts and whether the dispute or appeal is likely to affect the bidder's ability to work with Huron, its consultants and representatives, and whether the experience with the bidder indicates that the Huron is likely to incur increased staff and legal costs in the administration of the contract if it is awarded to the bidder.

Huron will also consider delays in awards of subsequent Huron contracts with other contractors and the potential for those additional costs resulting in delays associated with this dispute/appeal.

There are strict time limits to file a dispute appeal. If the bidder is unsure of the deadline for appeal, they must seek direction from the Director of Regional Water. Failure to seek and follow these directions will result in the appeal being dismissed.

- 4.2.7 This Policy will be **reviewed** and revised on a periodic basis. It is anticipated that reviews will be conducted **every two (2) years** or more frequently as required. Where this Policy is silent, the Procurement Manager may recommend adopting provisions from comparable public-sector procurement frameworks, including those of the City of London, subject to approval by the Director of Regional Water. Such adoption shall not be automatic and must not conflict with Huron governance, thresholds, or authorities.
- 4.2.8 Good and services NOT subject to this Policy are listed in Schedule "B". The final determination of whether goods and services qualify for exemption under Schedule "B" shall be determined by the Director of Regional Water.

- 4.2.9 In accordance with Ontario Regulation 191/11 under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* as amended, Huron shall consider accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services, or facilities, except where it is not practicable to do so. In which case, an explanation will be provided upon request.
- 4.2.10 No purchase of goods and services associated with computer software, hardware and telecommunications equipment will be authorized without the completion of appropriate cybersecurity and information technology reviews and the authorization of the Director of Regional Water.
- 4.2.11 When Grants or Stimulus Funding are received by Huron, the use of that funding for procurements is subject to this Policy, notwithstanding any specific conditions placed by the Grant or Stimulus Funding provider.
- 4.2.12 Where any matter or circumstance occurs not provided for by this Policy, the procurement and disposal policies and procedures of the Administering Municipality may be used as a guide with the necessary modifications in the circumstances.

4.3 Roles and Responsibilities

4.3.1 General Responsibilities

All persons with Approval Authority shall follow the guidelines as set out in Schedule 'D', as well as Section 4.4 below.

Procurement activities shall be subject to all applicable Huron policies and by-laws, any specific provisions of the Municipal Act, and all other applicable Federal and Provincial legislation.

Failure to adhere to the requirements outlined in this Policy may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

No provision of this Policy precludes the Director of Regional Water, with the concurrence of the Chief Administrative Officer, from recommending an award to the Board where:

- a) In the opinion of the Director of Regional Water, it is in the best interest of Huron to do so; or,
- b) It is a matter of procurement procedure and, in the opinion of the Director of Regional Water, is in the best interest of Huron to do so.

4.3.2 Chief Administrative Officer

The Chief Administrative Officer has the authority to instruct the Director of Regional Water not to award contracts and to submit recommendations to the Board for approval and may provide additional restrictions concerning procurement where such action is considered necessary and in the best interest of Huron.

4.3.3 Director of Regional Water

- a) Has responsibility for all procurement activities on behalf of Huron and is accountable for achieving best value while following the Procurement of Goods and Services and Disposal of Assets Policy;
- b) Is responsible for maintaining ownership over this Policy and its integrity;
- c) Has the authority to delegate approval authority to staff at the appropriate levels (Section 4.7.7);
- d) Has the authority to award contracts in the circumstances specified in this Policy provided that the delegated power is exercised within the limits prescribed in Schedule "A" and the requirements of this Policy are met; and,
- e) When the Director of Regional Water is of the opinion that a Triggering Event has occurred, the Director of Regional Water may authorize the purchase of such goods and services as is considered necessary to remedy the situation without regard to the requirement for a competitive bid and may approve the necessary contract amendment. The relevant details surrounding the Triggering Event shall be included in a report and submitted to the Board as soon as reasonably possible.

4.3.4 Board

- a) Despite any other provision of this Policy, the following contracts are subject to Board approval:
- b) Any contract requiring approval from the Ontario Land Tribunal;
- c) Any contract prescribed by Statute to be made by the Board;
- d) Where a recommendation is being made to amend the total value of a contract in excess of the original bid (plus contingency), and;
 - i. it is an amount greater than \$100,000 or 5%; or
 - ii. in the opinion of the Chief Administrative Officer, funds are not available for the additional expenditure.
- e) Where a Substantive Objection, emanating from the competitive bid has been filed with the Director of Regional Water prior to award of the contract;
- f) Where there is an Irregular Result (see Section 4.7.10);
- g) Where authority to approve has not been expressly delegated.

4.3.5 Procurement Manager

The Procurement Manager is responsible for the effective management, oversight, and coordination of Huron's procurement and disposal activities. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Developing and maintaining procurement processes, documentation standards, templates, and guidelines in accordance with this Policy.
- b) Planning and coordinating procurements, including timing, method selection, and evaluation approaches.
- c) Providing professional procurement advice and interpretation of this Policy and applicable trade agreements (including CFTA and CETA).
- d) Ensuring procurements are conducted in a manner that supports transparency, fairness, accountability, and best value.
- e) Advising the Director of Regional Water on procurement decisions and recommending awards within delegated authority.
- f) Managing the dispute process in accordance with Section 4.2.6 and facilitating communication with bidders regarding procurement decisions.

4.4 Conflict of Interest

- 4.4.1 No Board Member or employee of Regional Water or the Administering Municipality shall have a pecuniary or controlling interest either direct or indirect in any competitive bid or contract for the supply of goods or services to Huron, unless such pecuniary interest is disclosed by the contractor, bidder or person submitting a quotation, as the case may be, or unless such pecuniary interest would be exempt under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.
- 4.4.2 Competitive bid documents shall include a section that requires and provides for the disclosure of any pecuniary interest prior to submission of the bid. Should a conflict of interest arise after the award of a contract, the conflict shall immediately be disclosed in writing to the Director of Regional Water. Further, a competitive bid documents and agreements shall provide that in the event that a contract is awarded to a person who has not, during the bidding or contracting process, disclosed the pecuniary interest of a Board member, Regional Water employee, or employee of the Administering Municipality in the contract, the contract may be cancelled at any time by Huron in its entire discretion without damages or penalty.
- 4.4.3 In this section, controlling interest' means the interest that a person has in a corporation when the person beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or exercises control or direction over, equity shares of the corporation carrying more than ten percent (10%) of the voting rights attached to all equity shares of the corporation for the time being outstanding.

- 4.4.4 For the purposes of this section, a person has an indirect pecuniary interest in any competitive bid or agreement entered into by a corporation, if:
- a) The person or his or her nominee is a shareholder in or a director or senior officer of a corporation that does not offer in securities to the public; or
 - b) Has a controlling interest in or is a director or senior officer of a corporation that offers securities to the public.
- 4.4.5 For the purposes of this section, a Board Member, Regional Water employee or employee of the Administering Municipality has an indirect pecuniary interest if the person is a partner of a person or is in the employment of a person or body that has entered into a tender, proposal, quotation or contract with Huron.
- 4.4.6 For the purposes of this section, the pecuniary interest in a Tender, Proposal, Quotation or contract of a parent or spouse or any child of a Board Member, Regional Water Employee, or employee of the Administering Municipality shall, if known to the person, be deemed to be also the pecuniary interest of the Board Member, Regional Water employee or employee of the Administering Municipality as the case may be.

4.5 Prohibitions

4.5.1 Division of Contracts

No Regional Water employee shall divide a purchase or contract to avoid the requirements of the Tender, Proposal, Quotation or purchasing procedures of this Policy. Nor shall purchases be split in order to circumvent prescribe spending authority dollar limits as outlined in this Policy.

4.5.2 Interference in the Procurement Process

- a) Board Members and Regional Water employees shall not knowingly cause or permit anything to be done or communicated to anyone in a manner which is likely to cause any potential supplier to have an unfair advantage or disadvantage in obtaining a contract for the supply of goods and services to Huron. This also includes a contract with any other municipality, local board , public body or government agency involved in the purchase of goods and services either jointly or in cooperation with Huron.
- b) Board Members shall separate themselves from the procurement process and have no involvement whatsoever in specific procurements. Board Members should not see any documents or receive any information related to a particular procurement while the procurement process is ongoing. Board Members who receive inquiries from suppliers related to any specific procurement shall immediately direct those inquiries to the Director of Regional Water or the Chief Administrative Officer.

- c) The only exception to (b) above relates to selection of an integrity commissioner or an RFP whereby Board Members are specifically part of the evaluation team for the RFP as approved by resolution of the Board.

4.5.3 Official Point of Purchasing Contact and Lobbying Prohibition

- a) Huron is committed to the highest standards of integrity with respect to the purchase of goods and services and managing the processes by which goods and services are acquired. The official point of purchasing contact shall be the Procurement Officer identified in the competitive bid documents. Should it be necessary or desirable to have a contact person to respond to technical issues that person shall be named in the competitive bid documents.

All communications shall be made by these individuals and, during the procurement process, no bidder or person acting on behalf of the bidder or group of bidders shall contact any Board Member or consult with any employee of Regional Water or Huron's operating authority, to seek information or to influence the award of the contract.

Any activity designed to influence the decision process, including, but not limited to, contacting any Board Member, or consulting with any employee of Regional Water or Huron's operating authority, for purposes such as meetings of introduction, social events, meals, or meetings related to the selection process, shall result in disqualification of the bidder for the project to which the influencing activity is directed.

- b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, this prohibition does not apply to meetings specifically scheduled for presentations or negotiations related to the competitive bid. Any bidder found to be in breach of this Policy shall be subject to immediate disqualification from the procurement process and may be prohibited from future opportunities at the discretion of the Board.
- c) In addition, no bidder who has been awarded the contract shall engage in any contact or activities in an attempt to influence any Board Member, or consultant with any employee of Regional Water or Huron's operating authority with respect to the purchase of additional enhancements, options, or modules. However, a contractor may communicate with the appropriate Procurement Officer identified in the competitive bid documents or the Director of Regional Water for purposes of administration of the contract during the term of the contract.
- d) The determination of what constitutes influential activity is in the sole discretion of the Director of Regional Water, acting reasonably, and not subject to appeal.

4.5.4 Trade Agreement Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with the requirements of applicable trade agreements, including the CFTA and CETA, may be considered a prohibited procurement practice. Non-compliance may result in restricted or unfair access to procurement opportunities, expose Huron to formal trade challenges or bid disputes, and undermine the integrity, transparency, and fairness of the procurement process. Adherence to trade agreement obligations is essential to maintaining public confidence, legal compliance, and the achievement of best value for Huron.

4.6 Procurement Documentation

- 4.6.1 Regional Water shall establish, maintain, and periodically update its own procurement documentation standards, guidelines on procurement policies and procedures, templates, and procedures governing a comprehensive bid process, including the planning, solicitation, receipt, evaluation, award, and administration of procurements. Such documentation, guidelines, and processes shall be developed and applied in a manner that ensures fairness, transparency, consistency, accountability, and compliance with this Policy and all applicable legislative and trade agreement requirements.
- 4.6.2 The Procurement Officer shall review proposed procurement documentation for a Competitive Bid to ensure clarity, reasonableness, quality and consistency with guidelines, and shall advise Regional Water of suggested improvements.
- 4.6.3 Procurement documentation shall avoid use of specific products or brand names.
- 4.6.4 Notwithstanding Section 4.6.3, the Director of Regional Water (or delegate) may specify a specific product, brand name or approved equal for essential functionality purposes (with consideration for operating and maintenance costs) to avoid unacceptable risk or for some other valid purpose. In such instances, the Director of Regional Water (or delegate) shall oversee the procurement to achieve a competitive situation whenever possible.
- 4.6.5 The use of standards in procurement documentation that have been certified, evaluated, qualified, registered or verified by independent nationally or internationally recognized and industry-supported organizations such as, but not limited to, the Standards Council of Canada, shall be preferred.
- 4.6.6 Director of Regional Water (or delegate) shall:
- a) Give consideration to Value Analysis, Sustainable Purchasing and supplier code of conduct;
 - b) Ensure that adequate Value Analysis comparisons are conducted to provide assurance that the specification(s) will provide best value.
 - c) Forward the Value Analysis to Purchasing and Supply for documentation in the procurement file; and

d) Ensure specifications(s) are set to allow for an open competitive process.

4.6.7 All substantive changes to standard clauses in Competitive Bid documents and standard agreements shall be reviewed by Huron's solicitor (or delegate).

4.6.8 Unless otherwise noted in this Policy, the Director of Regional Water (or delegate) shall issue Competitive Bid documents for goods and services. The Procurement Officer shall give notice of the issuance of a Competitive Bid electronically via the internet as well as any other means as appropriate.

4.7 Approval Authority and Reporting Requirements

4.7.1 Any person having delegated approval authority pursuant to this Policy shall ensure that an approved budget, as described in Section 4.16 of this Policy, exists for the proposed procurement and that such procurement does not violate any Huron policies or any applicable law. Any such procurement shall also satisfy any applicable audit and documentation requirements of Huron.

4.7.2 All applicable taxes, duties and shipping shall be excluded in determining the procurement limit of authorized delegates and the type of procurement process to be followed.

4.7.3 The dollar values identified in this section represent the annual estimated procurement value for a good and service to be procured. The annual estimated procurement value is the cumulative value spent over a twelve (12) month period for a particular good and service.

4.7.4 In the case of multi-year supply and service contracts, the preauthorized expenditure limit shall refer to the estimated annual expenditure under the contract.

4.7.5 The following body and persons shall have the respective approval authority as set out below (see summary in Schedule "A"). All dollar values are based on annual amounts and must be within pre-approved budgeted limits.

a) **Board** must approve the following awards:

- i. RFP or RFT equal to or greater than the applicable CFTA threshold for goods, services or construction, as amended, and any RFP or RFT greater than the applicable CETA threshold for goods, services or construction, as amended.
- ii. RFP or RFT is greater than \$139,000 and having an Irregular Result (see Section 4.7.10); and,
- iii. Sole Source or Single Source greater than \$347,400

b) **Chief Administrative Officer** is authorized to approve the following awards:

- i. Professional Consulting Services greater than \$139,000 and less than the applicable CETA threshold for services, as amended.

- ii. Sole Source or Single Source greater than \$139,000 and less than the CFTA threshold for construction.
- c) **Director of Regional Water and the Chief Administrative Officer** (jointly) are authorized to approve the following awards:
 - i. Sole Source or Single Source up to \$347,000;
 - ii. RFP or RFT up to \$139,000 and having an Irregular Result (see Section 4.7.10);
 - iii. RFP or RFT of \$50,000 up to \$139,000 and in excess of the Board approved budget; and,
 - iv. RFP or RFT of \$139,000 up to the applicable CETA threshold for goods, services or construction not exceeding the Board approved budget.
- d) **Director of Regional Water** is authorized to approve the following awards:
 - i. Informal quotations up to \$50,000 and in excess of the Board approved budget; and,
 - ii. Professional Consulting Services not exceeding \$139,000.
- e) **Director of Regional Water** or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval are authorized to approve the following awards Provided that the procurement value does not meet or exceed any applicable CFTA or CETA threshold:
 - i. Informal quotations up to \$50,000 not exceeding the Board approved budget; and,
 - ii. RFQ or RFP up to \$139,000 not exceeding the Board approved budget.

4.7.6 Section 4.7.5 approvals may be overridden in the case of an ‘emergency’ as defined in Section 4.13.2 of this Policy.

4.7.7 **Delegation of Approval Authority**

The method for the Director of Regional Water delegating approval authority is as follows:

- a) The Director of Regional Water shall prepare a ‘delegation of approval authority list’ for Regional Water;
- b) The list will provide evidence that the staff listed have been delegated approval authority by the Director of Regional Water;
- c) The list at minimum, shall include the staff person’s name, title and approval limit, the list will also include any acting roles;

- d) The list shall be updated immediately upon any change in staff or position;
- e) A copy of the list shall be maintained by Huron and circulated internally to the Director of Regional Water, the Procurement Manager, and the Regional Water Finance and Procurement Department for reference each time the list is revised;
- f) The Procurement Manager shall ensure that the delegation of approval authority list is current and made available to appropriate Huron staff, as required for the administration of this Policy;
- g) Huron staff responsible for procurement, purchasing, and financial administration shall review the applicable delegation of approval authority list prior to undertaking any task that requires approval under this Policy.

4.7.8 Only the Director of Regional Water may further delegate approval authority to Regional Water staff at the procurement values deemed appropriate. Regional Water staff that have been delegated approval authority from the Director of Regional Water to approve procurement shall have no authority to further delegate this approval authority to any other person.

4.7.9 The Board may explicitly delegate further approval authority as it considers necessary from time to time, including but not limited to, any extended time periods which the Board does not meet.

4.7.10 Irregular Result

- a) The Director of Regional Water may approve a Competitive Bid up to \$50,000 where the value of the lowest compliant bid is in excess of the Board approved budget including any contingency allowance.
- b) The Director of Regional Water, jointly with the Chief Administrative Officer may approve a Competitive Bid up to \$139,000 if any of the following conditions apply:
 - i. The value of the lowest compliant bid is in excess of the Board approved budget including any contingency allowance;
 - ii. The specifications of a competitive bid cannot be met by two (2) or more suppliers;
 - iii. The award is not being made to a compliant bidder(s) offering the Best Value to Huron; or,
 - iv. Where a Substantive Objection has been filed prior to award of a Competitive Bid
- c) The Director of Regional Water and the Chief Administrative Officer shall submit a report to the Board and receive their approval for the award of a Competitive Bid greater than \$139,000 if any of the following conditions apply:

- i. The value of the lowest compliant bid is in excess of the Board approved budget including any contingency allowance;
- ii. The specifications of a competitive bid cannot be met by two (2) or more suppliers;
- iii. The award is not being made to a compliant bidder(s) offering the Best Value to Huron; or,
- iv. Where a Substantive Objection has been filed prior to award of a Competitive Bid.

4.7.11 Reporting to the Board

- a) On an annual basis, the Director of Regional Water shall provide a summary report to the Board outlining each occurrence where delegated approval authority was used to award a Contract in excess of \$10,000, amend or extend a Contract, and amend Board approved budgets in accordance with this Policy.
- b) On an annual basis, the Director of Regional Water shall provide a summary report to the Board outlining each occurrence where delegated approval authority was used to dispose of Huron assets in accordance with this Policy.

4.8 Low Dollar Value Procurements (up to \$30,000) as per Schedule 'A'

4.8.1 Procurements up to \$30,000 shall be considered low dollar value procurements.

4.8.2 A Purchasing Card provided by the Administering Municipality may be used for low-dollar value procurements provided that the procurement complies with the Administering Municipality's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, as applicable.

For further clarity, where alternative payment methods such as cheque or electronic funds transfer are available and reasonably practical, those methods are preferred; however, the use of a Purchasing Card remains permissible where operationally appropriate.

4.8.3 The Director of Regional Water may delegate approval authority to Regional Water staff for low dollar value procurements, and it is their responsibility to ensure that this Policy is adhered to.

4.8.4 Huron's standard insurance form(s) must be completed for all Informal Quotations, as appropriate.

4.8.5 WSIB Certificates of Clearance must be obtained at the commencement of the project and as needed before final payment is released.

4.8.6 Low dollar value procurements do not require an RFQ, RFP or RFT. Obtaining competitive quotes is considered good business practice and should be obtained

where it is reasonably practicable. An authorized Purchase Order is the preferred method.

4.9 Informal Request for Quotation (IRFQ) \$30,000 to \$50,000 – as per Schedule ‘A’

- 4.9.1 Procurements greater than \$30,000 but not exceeding \$50,000 are eligible to be completed through an Informal Quotation process. The Director of Regional Water or any employee exercising delegated authority is authorized to award the contract
- 4.9.2 All Informal Quotations shall be in accordance with the Procurement of Goods and Services and Disposal of Assets Policy.
- 4.9.3 Informal Quotations shall be obtained in the following manner:
 - a) Written (use of the electronic bidding system is encouraged) bids obtained from at least three (3) separate potential suppliers;
 - b) A ‘No Bid’ response shall not be considered as a valid bid;
 - c) All suppliers shall receive the same written informal quotation information;
 - d) The informal quotation shall be awarded to the lowest compliant bid; and
 - e) Documentation on all bids, including but not limited to the prospective bidders list, bid document, bid responses and decision-making rationale shall be retained in the project files for a minimum of two (2) years and in accordance with the Retention Policy of Huron.
- 4.9.4 Regional Water staff are encouraged to seek at least three (3) bids to ensure a more competitive process. If staff has exhausted all efforts to obtain three (3) bids and can support this with documented evidence under Section 4.9.3.e. above, a minimum of two (2) written bids is acceptable.
- 4.9.5 Huron’s standard insurance form(s) must be completed for all Informal Quotations as appropriate.
- 4.9.6 WSIB Certificates of Clearance must be obtained at the commencement of the project and as needed before final payment is released.
- 4.9.7 An authorized Purchase Requisition may be issued and shall include copies of the Bids received.

4.10 Request for Quotation (RFQ) \$50,000 to \$139,000 – as per Schedule ‘A’

- 4.10.1 RFQ procedures shall be used where:
 - a) The item is greater than \$50,000 but not exceeding \$139,000;
 - b) The requirement can be fully defined; and,

- c) Best value for Huron will be achieved by an award selection made on the basis of the total lifecycle cost that meets all terms, conditions and specifications.
- 4.10.2 The Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval may approve this award.
- 4.10.3 Huron's standard insurance form(s) must be completed for all Requests for Quotations as appropriate.
- 4.10.4 WSIB Certificates of Clearance must be obtained at the commencement of the project and as needed before final payment is released.
- 4.10.5 The Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval shall submit a Purchase Request in writing containing the relevant specifications, budget authorization, approval authority and terms and conditions for the purchase of goods, services or construction.
- 4.10.6 Regional Water shall be responsible for administering and reviewing RFQs, including those conducted through an approved electronic bidding platform, and for verifying that all terms, conditions, and specifications are met.
- 4.10.7 Huron reserves the right in its absolute sole discretion to accept or reject any submission.

4.11 Request for Proposal (RFP) – as per Schedule 'A'

- 4.11.1 The RFP procedure shall be used where:
 - a) The requirement is best described in a general performance specification.
 - b) Innovative solutions are sought; and,
 - c) To achieve best value, the award selection will be made on an evaluated point per item or other method involving a combination of mandatory and desirable requirements.
- 4.11.2 Awards under the RFP process require the following approval:
 - a) Except in the case of an award for Professional Consulting Services or an Irregular Bid, the Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval may approve an RFP award for purchases up to \$139,000;
 - b) Except in the case of an award for Professional Consulting Services or an Irregular Bid, the Director of Regional Water and the Chief Administrative Officer must jointly approve an RFP award for purchases greater than \$139,000 up to the threshold value established under CETA; and,

- c) The Board must approve an RFP award for purchases greater than the applicable trade agreement threshold, as amended.
- 4.11.3 The RFP process is a competitive method of procurement that may or may not include supplier pre-qualification and may be conducted through an approved electronic bidding platform.
- 4.11.4 An RFI, REOI or RFQUAL may be issued in advance of a RFP to assist in the development of a more definitive set of terms and conditions, scope of work/service and the selection of qualified suppliers.
- 4.11.5 An RFI, REOI and RFQUAL shall follow the same award approvals as an RFP, if applicable.
- 4.11.6 Regional Water may establish and maintain a list of suggested evaluation criteria to assist in formulating an evaluation methodology for use in a Request for Proposal (RFP). Such criteria may include, but are not limited to, qualifications and experience, strategy, approach, methodology, scheduling, past performance, facilities, equipment, pricing, life-cycle costing, product standardization, and factors supporting sustainability and environmental procurement. The selection and application of evaluation criteria shall be determined by Regional Water for each procurement and applied in accordance with this Policy to ensure fairness, transparency, and best value.
- 4.11.7 The Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval shall identify appropriate evaluation criteria from the list for use in an RFP but are not limited to criteria from the list. Cost will always be included as a factor, as best value includes but is not limited to quality and cost.
- 4.11.8 The Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval shall submit a written Purchase Request containing the budget authorization, approval authority, terms of reference and evaluation criteria to be applied in evaluating the proposals submitted.
- 4.11.9 A designated Procurement Officer will be the lead in the RFP process, including prerequisite RFI, REOI and/or RFQUAL as applicable. A selection committee will be formed with a minimum of three evaluators. The evaluators shall review all compliant proposals against the established criteria, reach consensus on the final rating results, and ensure that the final rating results, with supporting documents, are kept in the procurement file. The Purchasing Officer may or may not participate in the scoring of the proposals. The RFP process may be administered through an approved electronic bidding platform.
- 4.11.10 During the proposal process all communication with proponents shall be through the designated Procurement officer.
- 4.11.11 The Procurement Officer shall provide an evaluation summary of the procurement, as well as the evaluation committee's recommendation for award of contract to the proponent which meets all mandatory requirements and providing best value as

stipulated in the RFP. The Procurement Officer is responsible for documenting the determination of best value. The criteria and analysis to determine best value will be included (if applicable) in the report to the Board.

- 4.11.12 Reporting will not include financial summaries of bids as this information will remain confidential. Any disclosure of information shall be made by the appropriate officer in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990*, as amended.
- 4.11.13 Unsuccessful proponents may, at their request, attend a debriefing session with the Procurement Officer to review their competitive bid. Any discussions relating to any submissions other than that of the proponent present will be strictly prohibited. This debriefing session is intended to provide general feedback regarding the proponent's rating on various criteria in order to allow the proponent to understand where future improvements might be available.
- 4.11.14 Huron reserves the right in its absolute sole discretion to accept or reject any submission.
- 4.11.15 Procurement for Collaborative Delivery Programs that involve the procurement of a combination of goods, services, construction and/or consulting services (including design-build and construction manager at risk), shall follow the RFP process as outlined in this section 4.11.

4.12 Request for Tender (RFT) Greater than \$139,000 – as per Schedule 'A'

4.12.1 RFT procedures shall be used where:

- a) The total cost is expected to be greater than \$139,000;
- b) The requirement can be fully defined; and,
- c) Best value for Huron can be achieved by an award selection made on the basis of the lowest bid that meets all terms, conditions and specifications.

4.12.2 Awards under the RFT process require the following approval:

- a) The Board must approve an RFT award for tenders greater than the threshold value established by CETA, where sufficient funds are not available within the appropriate account;
- b) The Board must approve an RFT award for an Irregular Bid; and,
- c) The Director of Regional Water and the Chief Administrative Officer must jointly approve an RFT award for tenders up to the threshold value established by CETA and where there are sufficient funds available within the appropriate account.

4.12.3 The Director of Regional Water (or delegate) shall submit a purchase request in writing containing the relevant specifications, budget authorization, approval

authority and terms and conditions for the purchase of goods, services or construction. Specifications may include certain brands of product in order to facilitate standardization of Huron's inventory as per Section 4.6.4 of this Policy.

- 4.12.4 The Procurement Officer shall be responsible for arranging the public disclosure of bid submissions at the time and date specified by the bid call.
- 4.12.5 The Procurement Officer shall provide a summary of the bids and recommend the awarding of the contract to the lowest compliant bidder.
- 4.12.6 Huron reserves the right in its absolute sole discretion to accept or reject any submission.

4.13 Non-Competitive Purchases (Emergency, Sole Source, Single Source)

- 4.13.1 The requirement for a Competitive Bid process for the selection of a supplier for goods, services and construction (except for Emergencies – see Section 4.13.2) may be waived under the authority of the Chief Administrative Officer and replace with direct negotiations by the Director of Regional Water (or Delegate) under the following circumstances:
 - a) The procurement qualifies as a “Sole Source” as defined in Section 4.13.3; or,
 - b) The procurement qualifies as a ‘Single Source’ as defined in Section 4.13.4.

4.13.2 Procurement Emergencies

For the purpose of this section, and in addition to Section 3, “Emergency” shall mean an event or occurrence that in the opinion of the Chief Administrative Officer or the Director of Regional Water deem as an immediate threat to:

- a) Public health;
- b) The maintenance of essential Huron services; or,
- c) The welfare and protection of persons, property, or the environment; and the event or occurrence necessitates the immediate need for goods or services to mitigate the Emergency, and time does not permit for a competitive procurement process.

In the event of an Emergency the Chief Administrative Officer or Director of Regional Water, and their respective delegates, are authorized to enter into a purchase agreement utilizing the Emergency Reserve Fund as the source of finance without the requirement for a formal competitive process. A list of pre-qualified suppliers will be used to select the suppliers, whenever possible.

Where the procurement to mitigate, the Emergency is anticipated to exceed \$50,000:

- a) A notification must be sent (e-mail is acceptable) to the Regional Water Finance and Procurement department requesting the establishment of a project number for the Emergency. The notification shall include an outline of the nature of the emergency (referencing this section of the Policy), the estimated budget for the project, and the primary Regional Water contact that is managing the Emergency.
- b) A notification must be sent (e-mail is acceptable) from the Director of Regional Water to the Board, copied to the Chief Administrative Officer, notifying the Board Members of the nature of the emergency and that the Emergency provisions of this Policy have been used; and,
- c) The steps taken to mitigate the Emergency must always be clearly documented regardless of amount.

Where the aggregate costs for the Emergency are expected to be in excess of \$50,000, the emergency procurement shall be reported at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, or related Special Meeting of the Board if called in accordance with the Rules of Order and Procedure By-law.

4.13.3 Sole Source

The procurement may be conducted using a Sole Source process if the goods and services are available from only one supplier by reason of:

- a) Statutory or market-based monopoly;
- b) Competition is precluded due to the application of any Act or legislation or because of the existence of patent rights, copyrights, license, technical secrets or controls of raw material; or,
- c) The complete item, service, or system is unique to one supplier, and no other alternative or substitute exists.

4.13.4 Single Source

Single Source means that there is more than one source of supply in the open market, but only one source is recommended due to predetermined and approved specifications.

The procurement may be conducted using a Single Source process if the goods and services are available from more than one source, but there are valid and sufficient reasons for selecting one supplier in particular, as follows:

- a) An attempt to acquire the required goods and services by soliciting competitive bids has been made in good faith, but has failed to identify more than one willing and compliant supplier;

- b) The confidential nature of the requirement is such that it would not be in the public interest to solicit competitive bids;
- c) Construction, renovations, repairs, maintenance etc. in respect of a building leased by Huron may only be done by the lessor of the building, in accordance with a lease agreement;
- d) There is a need for compatibility with goods and services previously acquired or the required goods and services will be additional to similar goods and services being supplied under an existing contract (i.e., contract extension or renewal);
- e) The required goods and services are to be supplied by a particular supplier(s) having special knowledge, skills, expertise or experience;
- f) The goods are purchased under circumstances which are exceptionally advantageous to Huron, such as in the case of bankruptcy or receivership;
- g) It is advantageous to Huron to acquire the goods or services from a supplier pursuant to the procurement process conducted by another public body;
- h) It is advantageous to Huron to acquire the goods or services directly from another public body or public service body;
- i) Another organization is funding or substantially funding the acquisition and has determined the supplier, and the terms and conditions of the commitment into which Huron will enter are acceptable to Huron;
- j) The acquisition is for a particular brand of goods or services that are intended solely for resale to the public and no other brand is desirable, and the brand is not available from any other source; or,
- k) Where due to abnormal market conditions, the goods, services or construction required are in short supply.

4.13.5 Sole Source and Single Source – Approval and Reporting

Awards which qualify to be considered as Single Source or Sole Source process require the following approval:

- a) The Director of Regional Water and the Chief Administrative Officer must jointly approve an award not exceeding \$139,000; or for construction awards up to the applicable CFTA construction threshold, as amended; or,
- b) The Board must approve an award greater than \$139,000 unless otherwise permitted by this Policy.

4.14 Appointment of Professional Consulting Services

4.14.1 General

- a) Senior management staff will be involved in the selection process for Professional Consulting Services. Specifically, the Senior Manager of Capital Programs or the Senior Manager of Business Administration is to be involved in the procurement of consulting services for all projects within their respective department, and Director of Regional Water for high-profile projects of increasing complexity or expense.
- b) Under no circumstances shall an extension or expansion of a consulting engagement preclude the required approvals. This includes splitting the project or scope of work into multiple phases or sections. The Board has sole authority to approve and award contracts greater than the CETA threshold for services, as amended.
- c) If a consulting engagement that was previously awarded administratively subsequently exceeds the CETA threshold for services, the Director of Regional Water shall prepare an information report for the Board providing a status update and requesting approval to proceed (if applicable).
- d) The Director of Regional Water shall be responsible for ensuring that a Consulting Services Agreement is executed for engineering consulting assignments. Notwithstanding, if an alternative agreement is used for any consulting services, the agreement must be reviewed by the Board's solicitor. The Consulting Services Agreement or alternate consulting services Agreement must be executed by the Chief Administrative Officer and Board Chair, or their delegate.
- e) The Director of Regional Water shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate insurance and WSIB documents are obtained and submitted to the Administering Municipality's Risk Management division and copies kept with the project file.
- f) On an annual basis, the Director of Regional Water shall provide a summary report to the Board outlining each occurrence where Consulting Services were administratively awarded, or an agreement for Consulting Services was amended or extended in accordance with this Policy.

4.14.2 Consulting Engineers, Architects, Landscape Architects and Environmental Consultants

With the exception of the procurement for Collaborative Delivery Projects, including design-build or Construction Manager at Risk, the selection of Professional Consulting Services will follow the requirements of Section 4.14.1; and,

- a) Professional Consulting Services, such as architects, landscape architects, and environmental consultants, may be procured in accordance with an

Huron approved Consultant Vendor of Record and grouped consultant selection process, established and maintained by the Director of Regional Water.

- b) A list of pre-approved firms (Consulting Engineers, Architects, Landscape Architects and Environmental Consultants) that provide professional consulting services shall be established by the Director of Regional Water.
- c) Assignments for projects which have estimated fees of less than \$139,000 shall be awarded by the Director of Regional Water to listed candidate firms based on an evaluation of the firm's competency, expertise, costs, past performance on Huron projects, available capacity, and the size of their operation and the particulars of the work to be done.
- d) Assignments for projects that are more complex in nature, but that are within the capability of firms included on the above-mentioned pre-approved list, and that have estimated fees between \$139,000 and the CETA threshold for goods and services, as amended, shall be assigned on the basis of a proposal submitted by a minimum of three (3) qualified firms from the list. Such proposals shall outline the firm's approach to the proposed project and demonstrate relevant experience and knowledge of projects of a similar nature.

If staff has exhausted all efforts to obtain at least three (3) proposals and can support this with documented evidence, a minimum of two (2) written bids is acceptable

A grouped consultant selection process may be undertaken for more than one project where the projects are similar in nature, the consultants possess the requisite skills and capacity to undertake the work, and operational efficiencies or value-for-money benefits are realized by Huron. Any grouped consultant selection process shall be established, maintained, administered, and governed by Huron in accordance with this Policy. The process shall form part of Huron's consultant selection framework and shall be applied in a manner that ensures fairness, transparency, consistency, and best value, and shall not constitute or rely upon any external consultant selection framework or delegation of procurement authority.

- e) Except in the case of an Irregular Bid, assignments for projects with estimated fees between \$139,000 and the CETA threshold for goods and services, as amended, shall be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer.
- f) Assignments for complex projects, or projects with estimated consulting fees greater than the CETA threshold for goods and services, as amended, shall be awarded through a two-stage competitive process. The first stage shall consist of an open, publicly advertised expression of interest and pre-qualification process (REOI/RFQUAL). The second stage shall consist of a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued to the short-listed firms, of which there shall be a minimum of three (3) qualified firms, each submitting their proposed

approach and demonstrating relevant experience and knowledge of projects of a similar nature.

- g) The assignments of an Irregular Bid outlined in parts d) and any assignment outlined in f) above and their related budget shall be subject to the approval of the Board. Prior to award by the Board, Regional Water staff will negotiate with the recommended consultant to establish the estimated personnel costs and other charges required for the assignment. It is anticipated that an upset fee will be established for the first phase of the project as directed by the Director of Regional Water. Board approval will be for the entire project noting that the consultant shall obtain the approval of the Director of Regional Water to proceed with subsequent phases to upset limits as appropriate to the work within the limit of the budget.
- h) A consulting firm which has satisfactorily partially completed a project may be recommended for award of the balance of a project without competition subject to satisfying all financial, reporting and other conditions contained within this Policy. This should be to the financial advantage of Huron due to the fact that such a consultant has specific knowledge of the project and has undertaken work for which duplication would be required if another firm were to be selected.

4.14.3 Other Professional Consulting Services

The selection of Professional Consulting Services which are not included under Section 4.14.2 will follow the requirements of Section 4.14.1; and,

- a) Projects which have estimated fees of less than \$139,000 may be awarded by the Director of Regional Water under the following circumstances:
 - i. the project requires special knowledge, skills, expertise or experience; or,
 - ii. another organization is funding or substantially funding the project and has already selected a preferred firm and strict timelines have been placed on the funding; or,
 - iii. the confidential nature of the project is such that it would not be in the public interest to solicit competitive bids; or,
 - iv. the preferred firm has already been selected through a formal procurement process by another public body to provide same or similar services; or,
 - v. the project requirement meets the definition of Sole Source, Section 4.13.3.
- b) The Director of Regional Water is responsible for detailing the rationale supporting their decision to award the recommended firm.

- c) Under this section, all professional consultant proposals must include, at minimum:
 - i. Schedule of fees;
 - ii. Methodology and timeline to complete project;
 - iii. Demonstrated experience and qualifications required to perform project; and,
 - iv. List of personnel who will be directly involved in the completion of the project.
- d) All requirements for Other Professional Consulting Services (section 4.14.3) not meeting the selection requirements of section 4.14.3(a) shall follow the RFP process outlined in Section 4.11

4.15 Blanket Purchase Contracts

- 4.15.1 A Blanket Purchase Contract established by Huron, in accordance with this Policy and Huron's procurement procedures, may be used where it is determined to be in the best interest of Huron.

4.16 Requirement for Approved Funds

- 4.16.1 The exercise of authority to award a contract is subject to the identification and availability of sufficient funds in appropriate accounts within Board approved budget for Huron.
- 4.16.2 Where goods and services are routinely purchased or leased on a multi-year basis, the exercise of authority to award a contract is subject to:
 - a. The identification and availability of sufficient funds in appropriate accounts for the current year within the Board approved budget;
 - b. The requirement for the goods or services will continue to exist in subsequent years and, in the opinion of the Director of Regional Water, the required funding can reasonably be expected to be made available; and,
 - c. The contract containing a provision that the supply of goods or services in subsequent years is subject to the approval by the Board.

4.17 Bid Administration

- 4.17.1 All competitive procurements shall be administered by an authorized Procurement Officer using an electronic bidding platform directly procured and controlled by Regional Water.

The protocol for bid irregularities and their associated responses are detailed in Schedule 'C' of this Policy.

4.18 Contract Administration

4.18.1 Contractual Agreement

- a) The award of a contract may be made by way of an Agreement, Contract Record or Purchase Order.
- b) A Purchase Order or Contract Record is to be used when the resulting contract is straightforward and will contain Huron's standard terms and conditions.
- c) Agreement is to be used when the resulting contract is complex and will include terms and conditions other than Huron's standard terms and conditions.
- d) It shall be the responsibility of the Director of Regional Water (or delegate) and the Chief Administrative Officer to determine if it is in the best interest of Huron to establish an agreement with the supplier.
- e) Where it is determined that Section 4.18.1.d is to apply, the agreement shall be reviewed for execution by Huron's solicitor unless a standard Consulting Services Agreement is used, as appropriate.
- f) Where an agreement is required, as a result of the award of a contract by delegated authority, the Board Chair and Chief Administrative Officer shall execute the agreement in the name of Huron unless delegated in writing in accordance with the Delegation of Powers and Duties Policy.
- g) Where an agreement is issued, a Purchase Order or Contract Record may be issued incorporating the formal agreement.
- h) Where an agreement is not required, an authorized Purchase Order or Contract Record may be issued incorporating the terms and conditions relevant to the award of contract.

4.18.2 Exercise of Contract Renewal Options

- a) Where a contract contains an option for renewal, the Director of Regional Water may authorize the exercise of such option provided that all of the following apply:
 - i. the supplier's performance in supplying the goods and services or construction is considered to have met the requirements of the contract;
 - ii. any price increases are consistent with the prevailing market conditions for the goods or services being purchased;
 - iii. the facts justifying the decision to award this supplier previously are still relevant at the time of contract renewal;

- iv. funds are available or will be available in appropriate accounts within Board approved budget, including authorized revisions, to meet the proposed expenditure;
 - v. the relevant Board report, if applicable, clearly identified the options to extend;
 - vi. the Director of Regional Water and the Chief Administrative Officer agree that the exercise of the option is in the best interest of Huron; and
 - vii. compliance with Sections i. through v. is documented, authorized by the Director of Regional Water and saved with the project file.
- b) Approval for contract renewals and extensions shall be governed by Section 4.7.5 and Schedule "A" of this Policy.

4.18.3 Contract Amendments

- a) No amendment to a contract shall be made unless the amendment is in the best interest of Huron.
- b) No amendment that changes the price of a contract shall be agreed to without a corresponding change in requirement or scope of work.
- c) Amendments to contracts are subject to the identification and availability of sufficient funds in appropriate accounts within Board approved budgets including authorized amendments.
- d) Director of Regional Water jointly with the Chief Administrative Officer may authorize amendments when:
 - i. the total amended value of the contract (original contract plus amendment) is within the approval limit as noted in Schedule "A" of this Policy; or,
 - ii. the contract amendment will not exceed the originally approved contract by an amount greater than \$100,000 or 5% of contract value, whichever is greater, and there are sufficient funds available.
- e) The Board must authorize contract amendments when:
 - i. the total amended value of the contract will be greater than the administrative approval threshold under Section 4.18.3.d above; or,
 - ii. the total amended value of the contract will exceed the originally approved contract by an amount greater than \$100,000 or 5% of contract value, whichever is greater, and there are funds available.

4.18.4 Performance Evaluation

The Director of Regional Water may develop and implement a Performance Evaluation program for contractors and consultants to be used in conjunction with Bid Administration in accordance with Section 4.17 of this Policy.

4.19 Disposal of Materials and Equipment

4.19.1 Obsolete and / or Surplus Material and Equipment

- a) If materials and equipment are designated as obsolete, they may be offered for sealed bids, public auction or other public sale, depending in the opinion of the Director of Regional Water, or delegate, on which method is most suitable for the equipment or material involved.
- b) Auctions are held as required dependent upon the individual circumstances such as delivery of replacement items and storage capacity.
- c) The disposal of material and equipment where the removal and disposal are intrinsic to a project is excluded from this Policy and is deemed to have been approved by the Board with the approval of the project. Huron may, at its sole discretion, designate specific material or equipment as having high value in a project and exclude the disposal from the project, and the disposal may be undertaken separately in accordance with this Policy.

4.19.2 Scrap Materials and Equipment

Material and equipment deemed to be scrap may be disposed of by:

- a) General advertising to secure sealed bids;
- b) Direct contact with the appropriate dealers to view the scrap and submit offers to purchase;
- c) Public auction; or,
- d) Other methods as deemed appropriate.

4.19.3 Revenue and Reporting to the Board

- a) On an annual basis, the Director of Regional Water shall provide a summary report to the Board outlining each occurrence where material and equipment was disposed of in accordance with this Policy, excluding disposals that were intrinsic to a project.
- b) The revenue from the sale of obsolete material shall be credited to the appropriate Huron account.

4.20 General Provisions

4.20.1 Cooperative Purchasing

- a) Huron may participate with other government agencies or public authorities in cooperative purchasing where it is in the best interests of Huron to do so.

- b) The decision to participate in cooperative purchasing agreements will be made by the Director of Regional Water.
- c) The individual policies of the government agencies or public authorities participating in the cooperative competitive bid are to be the accepted by law for that particular competitive bid.

4.20.2 Direct Solicitation

- a) Unsolicited proposals received by Huron shall be referred to the Director of Regional Water and the Manager of Finance and Procurement for review.
- b) Any procurement activity resulting from the receipt of an unsolicited proposal shall comply with the provisions of this Policy.
- c) A contract resulting from an unsolicited proposal shall be awarded on a non-competitive basis only when the procurement complies with the requirements of a non-competitive procurement, as detailed in Section 4.13.

4.20.3 Resolution of Questions

Any question involving the meaning or application of this Policy is to be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer who will resolve the question.

4.20.4 Access to Information

The disclosure of information received relevant to the issue of competitive bids or the award of contracts emanating from competitive bids shall be made by the appropriate officers in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990*, as amended. This includes, but is not limited to, records and information pertaining to a competitive bid if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to:

- a) significantly prejudice the competitive position or significantly interfere with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, corporation or other entity that responds, or intends to respond to a request for bids;
- b) result in similar information no longer being supplied to Huron where it is in the public interest that similar information continues to be so supplied;
- c) result in undue loss or gain to any person, group, committee or financial institution or agency; or,
- d) result in information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to be injurious to the financial interests of Huron.

4.20.5 Local or Geographical Preference

Huron shall not give any local or geographical preference during the competitive bid process. Huron may mandate certain bona fide on-site response time requirements for specific situations as appropriate.

4.20.6 Terms and Conditions

All standard Huron Terms and Conditions for all procurement activities will govern unless there is written approval for the proposed changes from the Director of Regional Water in consultation with Huron's Solicitor if applicable.

4.20.7 Application of Trade Agreements

Huron procurement activities shall comply with all applicable trade agreements, including the CFTA and the CETA, as amended from time to time.

Schedule 'A' – Levels of Contract Approval Authority

Sales taxes, excise taxes, goods and service taxes and duties shall be excluded in determining the price of a contract for the supply of goods or services for the purpose of the relationship of the price to the preauthorized expenditure limit. In the case of multi-year supply and service contracts, the preauthorized expenditure limit shall refer to the estimated annual expenditure under the contract.

Copies of quotations, tenders, proposals and related documents must be retained for a period of not less than two years following the completion of the provision of the Goods & Services, and as determined by the Retention Policy.

Emergencies as defined in Section 4.13.2 are exempt from this Approval Authority.

Table 1: Goods & Services, excluding Consulting Services

Value (excluding taxes, duty & shipping)	Tool / Procurement Process	Approval Authority	Policy Section
Less than \$30,000	<p>Low Dollar Value Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use purchasing card for small operational expenses, etc. within the transaction limit established for the card in each circumstance. ▪ Obtain competitive quotes where reasonably practical (informal). 	Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval	4.8
\$30,000 to \$50,000	IRFQ – min. of three written quotes	Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval	4.7.5 4.9
	Amount exceeding approved project budget	Director of Regional Water	4.7.10

Value (excluding taxes, duty & shipping)	Tool / Procurement Process	Approval Authority	Policy Section
	Single Source or Sole Source	Director of Regional Water or Chief Administrative Officer)	4.7.5
Greater than \$50,000 to \$139,000	“RFQ” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three quotes • Procurement awarded to the lowest compliant bid 	Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval	4.7.5 4.10 / 4.12
	“RFP” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three proposals • Awarded to the proponent offering best value 	Director of Regional Water or any Regional Water employee exercising delegated authority approval	4.7.5 4.11
	Irregular Result	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)	4.7.10
	Amount exceeding approved project budget	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)	4.7.10
	Single Source or Sole Source	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)	4.7.5
Greater than \$139,000 to the CETA threshold (\$736,000), as amended	“RFP” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three proposals if RFP • Awarded to proponent having best value 	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly) Board greater than \$736,000	4.7.5 4.11

Value (excluding taxes, duty & shipping)	Tool / Procurement Process	Approval Authority	Policy Section
	"RFT" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three quotes • Awarded to the lowest compliant bid 	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly), Board greater than \$736,000	4.7.5 4.12
	Irregular Result	Board	4.7.10
	Amount exceeding approved project budget	Board	4.7.10
	Single Source or Sole Source	Board	4.7.5
	Contract Extensions – previously approved by the Board – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less than the CETA threshold limit (\$736,000), as amended 	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)	4.18.2
\$736,000 and above Greater than the CETA threshold limit (\$736,000), as amended	RFP	Board	4.7.5
	RFT	Board	4.7.5
	Contract Extension – previously approved by the Board	Board	4.18.2

Value (excluding taxes, duty & shipping)	Tool / Procurement Process	Approval Authority	Policy Section
	<p>Contract Amendments – subject to availability of sufficient funds in appropriate accounts and budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less than the greater of \$100,000 or 5% of the contract value ▪ Greater of either up to \$100,000 or 5% of the Contract Value 	<p>Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)</p> <p>Board</p>	<p>4.18.2 4.18.3</p>

Table 2: Consulting Services

Value (excluding taxes, duty & shipping)	Tool / Procurement Process	Approval Authority	Policy Section
Less than \$139,000	RFP or appointment from pre-approved list	Director of Regional Water	4.14.2
	Irregular Bid	Chief Administrative Officer	4.14.2
\$139,000 to the CETA (\$736,000) threshold for <u>services</u> limit, as amended	RFP from at least three qualified firms	Chief Administrative Officer	4.14.2
	Irregular Bid	Board	4.14.2
Greater than the CETA (\$736,000) threshold for <u>services</u> limit, as amended	Two-stage procurement: RFQual and RFP	Board	4.14.2
	Irregular Bid	Board	4.14.2
Less than the CETA (\$736,000) threshold limit, as amended	Contract Extensions – previously approved by the Board	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)	4.18.2
Greater than the CETA (\$736,000) threshold limit, as amended	Contract Extensions – previously approved by the Board	Board	4.18.2
	Contract Amendments – subject to availability of sufficient funds in appropriate accounts and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The greater of either up to \$100,000 or 5% of the Contract Value 	Director of Regional Water and Chief Administrative Officer (Jointly)	4.18.2 4.18.3

Schedule 'B' – Goods and Services Not Subject to this Policy

1. Training and Education, including:
 - a. Conventions, conference, seminars, and educational courses;
 - b. Magazines, subscriptions, and periodicals;
 - c. Memberships;
 - d. Staff development;
 - e. Staff workshops; and,
 - f. Staff relations
2. Refundable employee expenses as per the Travel & Business Expense Policy.
3. General Expenses, including:
 - a. Payroll and payroll deductions;
 - b. Medicals;
 - c. Insurance premiums, claim settlements and adjuster services;
 - d. Tax remittances, GST.HST Cost Recovery Reviews and WSIB Remittances;
 - e. Payment in Lieu of Property Tax remittances;
 - f. Charges to and from municipalities and other government agencies, including but not limited to application fees and permit fees;
 - g. Postage;
 - h. Advertising as required by the *Municipal Act or other applicable Provincial legislation*;
 - i. Retirement Recognition Awards;
 - j. Investment Management Services;
 - k. Employee Group Benefits, Compensation, Programs, Consulting and Reviews
 - l. Administrative services provided by the Administering Municipality as defined under a Service Level Agreement;
4. Licenses, certificates, permits and other approvals.
5. Ongoing maintenance and actions to maintain present functionality of existing computer hardware and software.

6. Professional and special services up to \$100,000, or defined more specifically in another Huron by-law or Policy, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Additional Non-recurring Accounting and Auditing Services;
 - b. Public Debenture Sales;
 - c. Realty Services for Lease, Acquisition, Demolition, Sale and Appraisal of Land and Property, including Appraisal and Consulting Services relating to matters of Expropriation;
 - d. Printing and Mailing Services; and
 - e. Integrity Commissioner Services

Professional and special services exceeding \$100,000 must follow the approval process outlined on [Schedule "A"](#)

7. Utilities – Including water and Wastewater, Electricity, Electrical Inspection Services, Phone, Internet/Communications and Natural Gas
8. Urgent Facilities Maintenance/Repairs/Renovations as deemed appropriate by the Director of Regional Water with the concurrence of the Chief Administrative Officer.
9. Legal Services and Labour Relations Services as deemed appropriate by the Director of Regional Water, with the concurrence of the Chief Administrative Officer, up to \$ 250,000.
10. Services provided for Huron construction projects within a railway right-of-way as required by the rail authority having jurisdiction.
11. Banking Services where covered by agreements and provided either directly by Huron's contracted Banking Services provider as deemed appropriate by the Director of Regional Water with the concurrence of the Chief Administrative Officer, or by the Administering Municipality as authorized by the Service Level Agreement either directly or indirectly.
12. Lease, maintenance and repair of office space for Regional Water as deemed appropriate by the Director of Regional Water with the concurrence of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Note: the acquisition, lease, or sale/disposition of Huron land (real property) is subject to Board approval.
13. Grant Funding, given or paid by Huron as per Board approved Policies for Grants and agreements entered into by the Board. Grants provided by Huron not covered by these Policies or agreements must be approved by the Board.

14. Compensation paid to landowners in accordance with an applicable landowners agreement authorized by the Board, including but not limited to the Pipeline Operations and Maintenance Agreement.
15. The services of the accredited laboratory as required by the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and its regulations.
16. Disposal of material and equipment deemed to be obsolete and surplus and scrap and having a value of less than \$1,000.

Schedule 'C' – Irregularities Contained in Bids

Irregularity	Response
1. Late bids.	Automatic rejection
2. Insufficient financial security (no bid deposit or insufficient bid deposit).	Automatic rejection
3. Failure to insert the name of the bonding company in the space provided for in the bid documents.	Automatic rejection
4. Failure to provide a letter of agreement to bond / letter of guarantee where required.	Automatic rejection
5. Incomplete, illegible or obscure bids, or bids which contain additions not called for, erasures, alterations, errors or irregularities of any kind.	May be rejected as informal – Mandatory Requirements must be met or Automatic rejection
6. Documents, in which all addenda have not been acknowledged.	Automatic rejection
7. Failure to attend mandatory site visit.	Automatic rejection
8. Bids received on documents other than those provided by Huron.	Automatic rejection
9. Failure to insert the bidder's business name in one of the two spaces provided in the bid documents.	Automatic rejection
10. Conditions placed by the bidder on the total contract price.	Automatic rejection

Irregularity	Response
11. Bids containing minor mathematical errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) If the amount bid for a unit price item does not agree with the extension of the estimated quantity and the bid unit price, or if the extension has not been made, the unit price shall govern and the total price shall be corrected accordingly.b) If both the unit price and the total price are left blank, then both shall be considered as zero.c) If the unit price is left blank but a total price is shown for the item, the unit price shall be established by dividing the total price by the estimated quantity.d) If the total price is left blank for a lump sum item, it shall be considered as zero.e) If the bid documents contain an error in addition and subtraction and transcription in the approved competitive bid documentation format requested (i.e., not the additional supporting documentation supplied), the error shall be corrected, and the corrected total contract price shall govern.f) Bid documents containing prices which appear to be so unbalanced as to likely affect the interests of Huron adversely may be rejected.

Schedule 'D' – Statement of Ethics for Public Procurements

The Ontario Public Buyers Association's Code of Ethics is based upon the following tenets and all employees who are authorized to purchase goods and services on behalf of the City are to adhere to the following:

1. **Open and Honest Dealings with Everyone who is Involved in the Purchasing Process.** This includes all businesses with which Huron contracts or from which it purchases goods and services, as well as all Regional Water staff and agents who act on behalf of Huron in the purchase of goods and services including the Administering Municipality as applicable.
2. **Fair and Impartial Award Recommendations for All Contracts and Tenders.** This means that we do not extend preferential treatment to any supplier, including local companies. Not only is it against the law, but it is also not good business practice, since it limits fair and open competition for all potential suppliers and is therefore a detriment to obtaining the best possible value for each dollar.
3. **An Irreproachable Standard of Personal Integrity on the Part of All Those Delegated as Purchasing Representatives** for Huron. Absolutely no gifts or favours are accepted by the purchasing representatives in return for business or the consideration of business. Also, the purchasing representatives do not publicly endorse one company in order to give that company an advantage over others.

Cooperation with Other Public Agencies in Order to Obtain the Best Possible Value for Every Tax Dollar. Where appropriate, Huron may participate in, either directly or through an agent, a cooperative purchasing group to pool expertise and resources in order to practice good Value Analysis and to purchase goods and services in volume and save tax.