

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Special Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

A special meeting of the Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Rocoski, Oshawa, Chair
W. Bracken, Clarington
A. Burrows, Ajax
S. Elhajjeh, Clarington, Vice-Chair
T. Farrell, Brock
K. Meydam, Clarington
***all members of the committee except G. Rocoski participated electronically**

Absent: W. Baszytk, Brock
C. McLean, Ajax
H. Sukhu, Clarington

Non-Voting Members

Present: A. Burke, Senior Planner, Special Projects, Municipality of Clarington
Councillor Janice Jones, Local Councillor, Municipality of Clarington
M. Neild, Facility Manager, Covanta
D. San Juan, Environmental Health Specialist, Health Department, Durham Region

Staff

Present: G. Anello, Director, Waste Management Services
A. Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist – Information Technology
L. Malyjasiak, Works Technician 3, Waste Services, Works Department
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Walton, Regional Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services, attended for part of the meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Presentations

A) Angela Porteous, Manager, Waste Services, re: Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan

Christine Rourke, Project Manager, Senior Waste Planner, HDR, Catherine Curak, Communications Coordinator, HDR, and Courtney Semmler, Waste Planner, HDR, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP). A copy of the presentation was emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham's New Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP)
- Durham Waste Management History
- Waste Management Vision 2021-2040
- Plan Development Timeline
- Guiding Principles
- Early Consultation
- Current and Future Challenges Identified by Regional and Local Staff
- Policy
- Programs
- Promotion and Education
- Vision and Objectives
- Next Steps

C. Rourke advised that the next steps would include providing opportunities for consultation and input from regional advisory committees on vision, objectives and key considerations; engaging with the public in a virtual open house; and developing an outline of the LTWMP that incorporates input from consultation to present to Council for endorsement.

Detailed discussion ensued. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of detailed waste tonnage, project cost and municipal benchmarking information posted directly on the LTWMP website for committee members and members of the public in order to make informed decisions and be able to provide valuable input to staff regarding Durham Region's LTWMP. Note: requested materials from committee are publicly available on durham.ca. It was requested that all relevant information be posted to the Region's LTWMP website. Further

concern was raised regarding Regional Council approving the LTWMP in January 2019 and that other major waste management infrastructure projects continue forward outside of the LTWMP.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the plan development timeline, A. Porteous advised that staff will be coming back near the end of the year with a draft framework of the Waste Plan and 5-Year Action Plan outline to present to Council.

In response to concerns expressed by the Committee, G. Anello suggested that links to the requested information could be provided on the project website instead of duplicating information from other waste management websites where information requested from the Committee is already posted. The Committee suggested that if links were used, that a summary of each website be posted alongside the link. G. Anello also advised that there are several staff reports that summarize the requested information that could be posted to the website such as a report that discusses future waste projections and the annual waste report for committee and members of the public.

Moved by W. Bracken, Seconded by K. Meydam,

- A) That the EFW-WMAC request that staff review Durham Region's long-term waste management website to ensure all necessary and appropriate information, including but not limited to: Durham's current waste programs; what work is being proposed; any financial costs associated with the project; current and past tonnage data, as well as future projections; and, any related staff reports is posted and available to the public, and where possible links to the external websites with a summary; and
- B) That the Works Committee be informed of the EFW-WMAC request of staff.

CARRIED

C. Rourke and C. Curak responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there are statistics that state where in Durham residents live when answering the survey; what topics would be discussed during the virtual public open-houses; whether the information being provided will be offered in multiple languages; and how are the changes in the garbage stream being considered in the future (i.e. increase in waste from online orders during the pandemic, disposal of smart phones, and Keurig cups).

Additional comments from the Committee to the HDR Consultants included:

- That the anaerobic digestion project be included in the LTWMP, as well as the requested increase in the capacity at the Durham York Energy Centre
- That more user-friendly information should be made available to committees and the public for better understanding of the process
- That a survey be made available for the public to complete as a good compliment for feedback as an in-person group gathering may not be feasible this fall
- Using Durham Region's Twitter feed to promote the LTWMP

In response to a question regarding the anaerobic digestion project, G. Anello advised that the final business case will be completed once results are received from the Request for Proposal (RFP). He advised that there are several components of the anaerobic digestion and the energy from waste facility will be included in the plan such as what the future Green Bin composition will be, public education and potential future diversion programs that could have impacts on capacity at the energy from waste facility.

At the request of the Committee, G. Anello advised that he would provide the Committee with a list of mixed-waste pre-sort facilities that had been visited and links to their websites showing their process and the facilities that have used the technology successfully. He also advised that GHD Ltd. presented to the Works committee with regards to mixed waste pre-sort, and the facilities that were operational, and that GHD Ltd. performed audits on these facilities.

G. Anello advised that there will be two deliverables in the LTWMP: the 20 year Waste Plan and a 5-Year Action Plans so that adjustments can be made accordingly and will break the effort into manageable pieces.

Further discussion ensued regarding updating the LTWMP website with wording that public consultation will be forthcoming. A. Porteous advised that there are plans to update the website with messaging when the public platform is ready and functioning. She also explained the strategic plan consultation process that occurred recently and the YourVoiceDurham website that was available for members of the public to provide their input.

Moved by K. Meydam, Seconded by W. Bracken,

- A) That the EFW-WMAC request an opportunity for the public to comment on Durham Region's guiding principles and primary goals, and how they are consistent with provincial priorities; and
- B) That the Works Committee be informed of the EFW-WMAC request.

CARRIED

Moved by W. Bracken, Seconded by K. Meydem,
That we recommend to the Works Committee for approval
and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the EFW-WMAC recommends that there be town hall meetings where the public can provide comments and ask questions of Durham Regional waste staff, and that it include at least one real time question and answer period on the Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP); and that the town hall meetings occur prior to the Plan outline being developed and presented to the Works Committee and Regional Council.

CARRIED

G. Anello advised that hosting more town hall meetings would be an amendment to the contract with HDR Ltd., which would require a budget increase. He advised that there is already a consultation plan in place that has been approved and is being followed. In response to a question from the Committee he further advised that the contract with HDR Ltd. was approved during the procurement process.

C. Curak, Communications Coordinator, HDR, advised that as part of this process after the consultation with staff and local municipalities, they would then go to the public and host pop up kiosks when safe to do so. She stated that community centres or open houses were scheduled for consultation sessions but were put on pause because of COVID-19. As a result, for 2020 online public consultation will occur instead.

A. Porteous requested that the Committee provide feedback through a survey with regards to key issues and considerations to the LTWMP. The link to the survey was provided to Committee members subsequent to the meeting.

4. Correspondence

- A) Email Correspondence from Linda Gasser, Whitby Resident, dated July 14, 2020, re: Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan
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Moved by S. Elhajjeh, Seconded by W. Bracken,
That email correspondence dated July 14, 2020, from Linda Gasser, regarding Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan, be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EFW-WMAC will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), at 7:00 PM, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

6. Adjournment

Moved by W. Bracken, Seconded by K. Meydam,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

G. Rocoski, Chair, Energy from Waste –
Waste Management Advisory Committee

S. Penak, Committee Clerk