



Addendum to the Energy from Waste-Waste Management Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

7:00 PM

**Council Chambers
Regional Headquarters Building
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby**

In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to generally comply with the directions from the Government of Ontario, **it is requested in the strongest terms that Members participate in the meeting electronically.** Regional Headquarters is closed to the public, all members of the public may view the Committee meeting via live streaming, instead of attending the meeting in person. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing delegations@durham.ca and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

7. Correspondence

- A) Email correspondence and two references from Linda Gasser, dated September 21, 2020, regarding 'Correspondence to Sept. 22 WMAC – further to July 15.20 WMAC discussion re LTWMP Guiding Principles (GP)'.

Pages 16 to 24

References:

[2020-COW-2](#): Solid Waste Management: 2020 Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast

[2019-COW-3](#): 2019 Solid Waste Management Servicing and Financing Study

Recommendation: Receive for information.

Melodee Smart

From: Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 10:20 AM
To: EFW-WMAC; Melodee Smart
Subject: Correspondence to Sept. 22 WMAC -further to July 15.20 WMAC discussion re LTWMP Guiding Principles (GP)
Attachments: 2020-COW-2 Solid Waste Strategic issues incl. LTWMP guiding principles.pdf; 2019 COW3. S & F.pdf

Attn Clerks:

Please include the correspondence below in EFW WMAC agenda addendum.

Attn: EFW WMAC Chair and members:

At the last WMAC meeting, members wanted to introduce a motion to ensure that staff include a statement on the LTWMP web pages that would clearly indicate the LTWMP Guiding Principles would be open for public input.

Durham staff made various statements that the LTWMP Guiding Principles "came to us from a higher document" -the Region's Strategic Plan - see meeting webcast around 1:55 hr mark and then indicated any subordinate plan such as the LTWMP would have to be consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Yes, subordinate plans should be consistent with general principles in the Strategic Plan but there is no wording in the Strat Plan that dictates anything around Guiding Principles for the LTWMP. In fact, as from the extract pasted in below in the Strategic Plan, it doesn't even mention "reduction or reuse" -instead references diversion and resource recovery.

After the July 15th meeting, I requested confirmation from the regional staff involved in Strategic Plan Development as to the Strategic Plan document, because it doesn't exist as a stand alone document.

Pasted in below please see below the email exchange between myself and Sonya Hardman regarding my questions further to various staff statements about the Guiding Principles arising from Strategic Plan.

The Region's Strategic Plan is a plan with several broad aspirational goals. **To repeat, the Strategic Plan is NOT prescriptive.**

See five broad Strategic Plan goals

at: <https://durhamregion.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=ebc7238a4b074826b4d012cc193c5d0c>

and the statement on waste found under Strat. Plan Environmental Sustainability tab: **1.2 Increase waste diversion and resource recovery**

The Region will continue to invest in programs that divert waste from landfill, while increasing resource recovery from existing waste through innovative technologies and solutions.

Based on what I have heard from the WMAC July 15th webcast, staff comments around the origin of the Guiding Principles MAY have led some WMAC committee members to believe and perhaps the chair to conclude that commenting on these Guiding principles would be "a step backward" - see meeting webcast at 2:08 hrs.

In their **January 16, 2019 S & F study**, Report 2019 COW-3 (report attached) Recommendation 1A) referencing the LTWMP bullet 3:

"Regional Council endorse a vision for the Long Term Waste Management Strategy 2021-2040 that continues and enhances the reduce, reuse, recycle principles and incorporates the vision of waste as a resource as a foundation of the plan."

A year later, the LTWMP Guiding Principles were **developed by staff** and part of **Report 2020 COW 2** Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast - see **January 15, 2020** report attached -see section 4 re LTWMP.

Staff Recommendation was for COW to recommend to Regional Council that this report **be received** and forwarded to the 2020 Business Planning and Budget deliberations.

Staff state in various LTWMP documents that the Guiding Principles **were endorsed by Regional Council on January 29th, 2020.**

I could not find evidence of the above referenced council endorsement of the Guiding Principles outlined in Report 2020 COW 2 nor was I able to trace via the minutes an ultimate disposition that might reference any Council endorsement re those GPs.

I wrote to Clerks asking them to advise of ultimate disposition. Clerks then asked the Commissioner of Finance to address my question and pasted in below is the entire response I received in response to my questions.

To recap, the Strategic Plan is a broad aspirational document and does not dictate the staff developed LTWMP Guiding Principles.

In fact, the way some these Guiding Principles are written appear worded to provide self serving cover for various staff sorties (e.g. plastic road in Newtonville, Omachron plastic recyclables provision) outside their core mandate and to pursue activities with, and for the benefit of, the private sector including consultants, but without also providing a substantive rationale or clear evidence as to how such activities might benefit the general public and Durham tax payers in particular.

WMAC members should request a clear explanation from staff around origin of their Guiding Principles as well as evidence of Council Endorsement of the GPs and absent this being provided, should recommend to Works that the LTWMP Guiding Principles be open for comment with a clear statement to that effect everywhere they appear on LTWMP consultation pages.

Furthermore, I ask that WMAC consider passing a motion asking staff to extend the comment period for this initial comment on their Open House web pages to the end of October 2020.

In closing, please do not accept that the precautions required around Covid might be used as justification for the limited and lightweight public consultation on LTWMP that staff offer. Staff have an obligation to provide multiple and meaningful consultation opportunities in a variety of formats and to provide clear factually correct information to the public and if more money is needed to do that, they should request approval for that from council.

Thank you for your attention.

Linda Gasser

Whitby

EXCHANGE RE STRATEGIC PLAN

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:RE: Question re current Durham 2020-2024 Complete strategic plan

Date:Sat, 18 Jul 2020 14:19:24 +0000

From:Sonya Hardman <Sonya.Hardman@Durham.ca>

To:Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>

CC:Gioseph Anello <Gioseph.Anello@Durham.ca>

Good morning Ms. Gasser,

I am happy to provide some additional information in follow-up to your email.

The Regional Strategic Plan is intended to be a high-level document containing a broad set of aspirational goals and priorities to guide further action. The goals and priorities articulated in the Plan represent what we heard from Regional Council, stakeholders and members of the public during an extensive engagement process that lasted for 7 months during 2019. In addition to three Special Meetings of Council on the topic of the Strategic Plan (which were open to the public), approximately 741 stakeholders and members of the public provided input to the Strategic Plan through:

1. Two deep-dive sessions with Regional stakeholders
2. A community survey that was open for 3 months and available in both print and online formats
3. Pop-up events across the Region
4. Information/engagement booths at six Fall Fairs across Durham
5. Five Town Hall discussions hosted at venues across Durham
6. Staff focus groups
7. A social media campaign

In addition to the above, we launched our new public engagement portal "[Your Voice Durham](#)" for members of the public to follow the process and provide input, including the introduction of our 'Ideas Bank'. This engagement portal is being used to support many other Regional initiatives and public consultations, so if you haven't already registered, please consider signing up.

Having been involved with the development of three Strategic Plans now with the Region, I feel the current iteration offers a similar level of detail to the previous two versions. Like most Strategic Plans, ours is written to be high-level and serve as a framework document containing the priorities approved by Regional Council. As such, all Regional strategies, plans and key initiatives flow out of and relate back to the Regional Strategic Plan (including the LTWMP). The level of detail you are looking for in terms of specific actions and measurables related to the Strategic Plan is contained in [Report 2020-COW-21](#) presented and endorsed by Regional Council on June 10th.

Speaking broadly to the Guiding Principles you refer to in your email related to the LTWMP, they are consistent and aligned with what we heard from Regional Council and the community during the development of the Strategic Plan, including the importance of:

1. Delivering value for taxpayer dollars (through cost effective waste management services)
1. Working with producers and importers (consistent with our focus on greater collaboration and maximizing waste recovery)
2. Innovation (where it pertains to approaches to managing waste, is both a corporate value and a strategic priority, as we continue to strive for service excellence in all operational areas)
3. Demonstrating leadership in sustainability (this is the entire focus of Goal 1 in the Strategic Plan and was consistently articulated throughout the public engagement process)

Your specific questions related to the LTWMP, such as backgrounders and opportunities for stakeholders and the public to comment and provide input, are beyond my scope and knowledge. I will have to refer you to Gio Anello, Director of Waste Management Services whom I have copied on this email, should you wish to follow-up directly with him on those items.

Kind regards,
Sonya

From: Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Sonya Hardman <Sonya.Hardman@Durham.ca>
Subject: Question re current Durham 2020-2024 Complete strategic plan

Good morning:

Thanks for prompt response.

Those five tabs present very broad aspirational goals. The planned summary document you describe might be even more brief.

Does the Region intend to develop any document with Strategic Plan commitments/action plans/steps to achieve those 5 goals, similar to the more detail contained in previous plan, and if yes, when?

I also have a very specific and somewhat complicated question about the Strategic Plan and/or supporting documents (stated further below) I am hoping you could answer.

If not, I would appreciate if you could please advise me to whom I should forward my question e.g. CAO or other.

My question stems from EFW WMAC meeting last night. Works staff at that meeting - **and I paraphrase as I interpreted several of their statements around this and sound quality was poor** - indicated that the Guiding Principles for their Long Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP), consultation underway, were informed by Durham's Strategic Plan and staff further stated that the LTWMP is subordinate to Strategic Plan and I was left with impression these Guiding Principles were required to comply/be consistent with with Strategic Plan.

See link to LTWMP main page that includes LTWMP Guiding Principles pasted in below: <https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/long-term-waste-management-strategy.aspx>

Guiding principles

Regional Council endorsed guiding principles for the Long-term Waste Management Plan on January 29, 2020. These principles will help shape the goals of the new plan:

1. Deliver cost effective waste management services to a rapidly growing and diverse population.
2. Work with producers and importers of designated products and packaging to implement "Extended Producer Responsibility" and adjust Region waste programs as required.
3. Apply innovative approaches to Region waste streams to manage them as resources in a circular economy.
4. Demonstrate leadership in sustainability to address the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities.

However, those LTWMP Guiding Principles are found in a January 15, 2020 staff report, 2020 COW 2 Solid Waste Management, Strategic Issues on page 4

https://icreate7.esolutionsgroup.ca/11111068_DurhamRegion/en/regional-government/resources/Documents/Council/Reports/2020-Committee-Reports/Committee-of-the-Whole/2020-COW-2.pdf

COW minutes page 3: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-01-15-0930-Committee-of-the-Whole-Meeting/74d2c9dc-a157-4a24-80a0-ab4300d7166e> and the Council action as per page 23 of January 29, 2020 minutes at: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-01-29-0930-Regional-Council-Meeting/456f443a-0b1b-4d2b-aaef-ab5e010614eb> was:

Solid Waste Management: 2020 Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast (2020-COW-2) [CARRIED] That the 2020 Solid Waste Management Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast be received and forwarded to the 2020 Business Planning and Budget deliberations.

I checked the minutes from Feb. 11 F & A that dealt with the budget and Council Feb 26 -

<https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-02-26-0930-Regional-Council-Meeting/62840c9f-4e69-4fde-9fd2-ab7400a0a5ca>

However, I can't find specific references to Report 2020 COW 2 which was referred to budget and what subsequent action was taken by council re COW 2 and when - I will ask Clerks what ultimate disposition was.

Question: Are you aware of any Strategic Plan document that contains a reference to the LTWMP Guiding Principles that Works staff included on LTWMP web page, i.e. is there a related draft or backgrounder document that was discussed by the Strategic Task Force and/or put out for stakeholder consultation, and/or a backgrounder etc., that stakeholders would have seen and invited to comment on **during development of Strategic Plan**, containing those LTWMP Guiding Principles?

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Linda Gasser

Whitby

On 2020-07-15 10:34 p.m., Sonya Hardman wrote:
Good evening Ms. Gasser,

Thank you for your email. From your message, I believe you have found the digital version of the new Strategic Plan at www.durham.ca/strategicplan. In keeping with Regional Council's commitment to environmental responsibility, along with considerations

regarding document accessibility and improving the customer experience through mobile-friendly content, the new Strategic Plan has been produced primarily in digital version. We are in the process of creating an abbreviated single page, fold-out version which will highlight the five goals and related priorities. I should emphasize that this summary version will not have the same breadth of content and narrative as found in the digital version. It is currently in production, and we expect a small number of printed copies will be available in the next couple of weeks. Once printed, a .pdf version of the summary will be made available via the Regional website.

I hope this helps clarify why you are unable to find a .pdf of the full plan, similar to what we have produced in the past.

Kind regards,
Sonya

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 10:05 PM
To: Sonya Hardman <Sonya.Hardman@Durham.ca>
Subject: request link to pdf of current Durham 2020-2024 Complete strategic plan

Good evening:

I've spent some time trying to find a pdf of the complete plan and get sent back to pages with the five tabs that are very general. Any link that says "strategic plan" sends me back there.

Please provide link where I could access a pdf of the current complete plan? I can find previous plan, but not current one.

Thank you.

Linda Gasser

Whitby

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EXCHANGE RE GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND DISPOSTION OF REPORT 2020 COW 2

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:RE: Question - F & A and council disposition of Report 2020 COW 2
Date:Tue, 21 Jul 2020 15:06:20 +0000
From:Nancy Taylor <Nancy.Taylor@durham.ca>

To: Cheryl Bandel <Cheryl.Bandel@Durham.ca>, Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>
CC: Nicole Pincombe <Nicole.Pincombe@durham.ca>, Leigh Fleury <Leigh.Fleury@Durham.ca>, Susan Siopis <Susan.Siopis@Durham.ca>

Good morning Linda,

I understand from your email that you are requesting information, with specific references, advising of the ultimate disposition of Report 2020-COW-2, the "Solid Waste Management: 2020 Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast" (SIFF). As you note in your email the report **recommendation was carried at both F&A (January 15, 2020) and Regional Council (January 29, 2020) and was "...received and forwarded to the 2020 Business Planning and Budget deliberations."** Subsequently, the report was considered during the refinement of major Solid Waste Management operations and capital expenditure requirements within the context of overall Regional requirements/priorities identified between 2020 and 2029.

Please also note Report 2020-W-15 "2020 Works Department Business Plans and Budgets" which was subsequently presented to the Works Committee on February 5, 2020, and recommended that the Finance and Administration Committee for subsequent recommendation to Regional Council approve the 2020 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budgets for the Works Department's General Tax and Solid Waste Management operations. This report has additional detail that may assist you in determining prioritizations and action items, including Solid Waste Management. It can be found at the following link:

<https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-02-05-0930-Works-Committee-Meeting/54d9420f-10d3-4496-acfd-ab5e0104ff82>

Within the February 11, 2020 F&A minutes (page 15) and subsequently at the February 26, 2020 meeting of Regional Council (minutes page 19), the 2020 Business Plan and Budget for Solid Waste Management at a net property tax requirement of \$47,736,000 was recommended and approved, as is detailed in the 2020 Solid Waste Management Business Plan and Budget available to you (page 272) at the following link:

<https://www.durham.ca/en/resources/2020-Detailed-Durham-Region-Approved-Business-Plans-and-Property-Tax-Supported-Budgets.pdf>

While some information in the SIFF report 2020-COW-2 was provided for information (e.g. updates, enhanced Producer Responsibility transition timing etc.), the detailed 2020 budget highlights all gross and net expenditure priorities approved for 2020, describing what F & A and Regional Council approved for action/implementation, specifically including, but not limited to:

1. A gross amount of \$60,000 to be financed from 2020 property taxes for the 2020 Scott Landfill Reclamation Project
(included in the 2020 Major Tangible Capital Assets Program for Solid Waste Management)
 1. Reference Report 2020-COW 2 pages 5 and 8;
2. A 2020 Major Tangible Capital Asset Program totaling \$163,500,000
 1. This major capital of \$163.5 million relates to the approved pre-sort and anaerobic digestion project, although the complete project budget and financing strategy will need to be taken to Council for approval as part of the RFP award process
(reference Report 2020-COW 2 pages 3, 5 and 8); and,
3. The Capital Forecast for the period 2021 to 2029 in the amount of \$243,224,800 received for information purposes only and subject to additional future approvals,
 1. The forecast 2021 to 2029 includes \$300,000 in 2021 for implementation and promotion of the Long Term Waste Management Plan
(reference Report 2020-COW 2 pages 1, 4 (as you note), and 8). Consulting and consultations

commenced in early 2020 based on the previous approval of \$200,000 (2019 Solid Waste Management Budget).

As you may be aware, consultations have already commenced for the Long-Term Waste Management Plan in early 2020. Stakeholders will include Regional inter-departmental staff, local municipalities, advisory committees and other interested groups, and residents.

Should you have additional questions regarding approved solid waste management programs noted within the detailed 2020 Budget document please do not hesitate to contact the Region. I have copied Sue Siopis so she is aware of your interest.

Take care,

Nancy

From: Cheryl Bandel

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 12:13 PM

To: Nancy Taylor <Nancy.Taylor@durham.ca>

Cc: Nicole Pincombe <Nicole.Pincombe@durham.ca>; Leigh Fleury <Leigh.Fleury@Durham.ca>

Subject: FW: Question - F & A and council disposition of Report 2020 COW 2

Hi Nancy –

Please see Linda's email below.

Are you able to help her with this question?

Thanks,
Cheryl

From: Linda Gasser <gasserlinda@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 11:08 AM

To: Cheryl Bandel <Cheryl.Bandel@Durham.ca>; Leigh Fleury <Leigh.Fleury@Durham.ca>

Subject: Question - F & A and council disposition of Report 2020 COW 2

Good morning.

I don't know to whom my question should be directed - please advise if someone else.

My question re Council action re the following.

LTWMP Guiding Principles are found in a January 15, 2020 staff report, **2020 COW 2 Solid Waste Management, Strategic Issues** on page 4

https://icreate7.esolutionsgroup.ca/11111068_DurhamRegion/en/regional-government/resources/Documents/Council/Reports/2020-Committee-Reports/Committee-of-the-Whole/2020-COW-2.pdf

COW minutes page 3: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-01-15-0930-Committee-of-the-Whole-Meeting/74d2c9dc-a157-4a24-80a0-ab4300d7166e>

and the Council action as per page 23 of January 29, 2020 minutes

at: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-01-29-0930-Regional-Council-Meeting/456f443a-0b1b-4d2b-aaef-ab5e010614eb> was:

Solid Waste Management: 2020 Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast (2020-COW-2) [CARRIED] That the 2020 Solid Waste Management Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast be received and forwarded to the 2020 Business Planning and Budget deliberations.

I checked the minutes from Feb. 11 F & A that dealt with the

budget <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-02-11-0930-Finance-and-Administration-Committee-Meeting/189a05ae-39d4-4f33-bfc5-ab7600ecd22d>

and Council Feb 26 -<https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2020-02-26-0930-Regional-Council-Meeting/62840c9f-4e69-4fde-9fd2-ab7400a0a5ca>

However, I can't find specific references to what F & A and/or Council did re Report 2020 COW 2 which was referred to budget, if any.

Could you please advise ultimate disposition of 2020 COW 2 with link to reference(s) re same.

Thanks.

Linda