

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Special Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

A special meeting of the Energy From Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, November 18, 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
S. Elhajjeh, Clarington, Vice-Chair
T. Farrell, Brock
K. Meydam, Clarington
H. Sukhu, Clarington
***all members of the committee except G. Rocoski participated electronically**

Absent: W. Baszyk, Brock
A. Burrows, Ajax
C. McLean, Ajax

Non-Voting Members

Present: A. Burke, Senior Planner, Special Projects, Municipality of Clarington
Councillor Janice Jones, Local Councillor, Municipality of Clarington
Councillor Joe Neal, Regional Councillor
M. Neild, Facility Manager, Covanta

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. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Administrative Matters

A) Discussion on Durham Region's Long-Term Waste Management Plan (2021 to 2040)

A. Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Services, provided a summary of the progress of the Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP) to date and next steps.

A. Porteous advised that consultation has been ongoing throughout 2020. She advised that beginning in April, Works staff reached out to Regional departments, local area municipalities, various advisory committees, and the public for input. She also advised that public consultation was made available through an online survey that began in August and closed on November 8, 2020 and that staff received just under 2100 responses. She further advised that a virtual Town Hall meeting was held on November 5, 2020.

A. Porteous stated that next steps will be to review all of the comments received over the numerous consultation points. Staff will take that information and review the draft vision and objectives of the LTWMP, and a draft framework will be presented to the Works Committee and Regional Council for approval with a target date of early 2021. Following Committee and Council approval, the next step will be to draft the waste plan, as well as a 5-year action plan throughout 2021. She advised that once the draft documents are complete, consultation will begin again (mid 2021), and staff will re-visit items based on what input is received from the various consultation points. She further advised that final approval of the plan is targeted for early 2022.

G. Anello advised that every 5 years Works staff will re-visit the action plan, revise it if necessary, and provide a new 5-year action plan. He pointed out that the vision, goals, guiding principles, objectives, targets and action plans of the LTWMP are all complementary of each other; one does not stand by itself.

In response to a question, A. Porteous advised the Committee that the following themes have been identified during the review of the comments:

- Overall good support
- Reduce and reuse are strong themes in the plan
- Multi-residential buildings and making sure there are good programs and waste diversion services for those in multi-residential buildings

- Increased/continued education and promotion as well as enforcement
- Single use plastics and making sure we are in line with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the importance of highlighting reduction and reuse within the four guiding principles of the LTWMP. Concerns were raised that a lifecycle analysis has not been completed and that toxic reduction should be investigated and stated clearly in the guiding principles. The Committee discussed the importance of revising the guiding principles as they would be fundamental to the direction of the LTWMP.

G. Anello advised that the Committee's comments and suggestions would be included in the record of consultation with an explanation as to why something was included or excluded. He also advised that reduce and reuse is a major objective within the promotion and education (P&E) project, with \$600,000 being dedicated to P&E. He also noted that the reduction of food waste is another major objective.

G. Anello advised that staff were guided by the overarching guiding principles of the Region's strategic plan initially and that after the Special EFW-WMAC meeting on July 15, 2020 where concerns were raised regarding the LTWMP's guiding principles, staff added a question to the online survey with respect to the guiding principles.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to increase enforcement, reduce the number of overall garbage bags allowed per household, as well as the use of clear plastic bags to minimize the impact on the system itself. Emphasis was made that reducing the amount of waste to be managed is extremely important and in doing so, will protect and improve the air and water quality.

Discussion also ensued regarding the single use plastics piece missing from the LTWMP and G. Anello reminded the Committee that Report #2020-INFO-79: Update on Single Use Plastics Policies in the Regional Municipality of Durham was circulated to Regional Council in August 2020.

With respect to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), G. Anello advised that the Province has extended the blue box materials to include many of the single-use plastics. He advised that the biggest challenge with banning the use of some single-use plastics would be around the authority that rests with each level of government.

In response to a question regarding the lack of specific information on the LTWMP available, G. Anello clarified that once an outline for the

LTWMP is established it will be presented to the Works Committee and Regional Council for approval. Once that approval is received staff can begin populating the outline with more details and specifics. He advised that staff are now reviewing the online survey results and how those comments might modify the vision, guiding principles, and objectives of the LTWMP. Concerns were raised that the LTWMP development was approved by Regional Council in January 2019 and decisions were made without the proper consultation.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the applicability of measuring toxicity load; and whether the Region has the authority to measure and enforce toxicity, if other levels of government are involved.

Moved by W. Bracken, Seconded by K. Meydam,
That the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee recommends to the Works Committee for approval:

That the Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP) guiding principles be amended as follows:

- A) That an additional guiding principle be added as the first principle that states that the priority of the plan is to improve reduction and reuse; and
- B) That a sixth guiding principle be added to set as a priority the reduction of toxic load on the environment.

CARRIED

Concerns were raised regarding the LTWMP's mission statement and its heavy emphasis on maximizing diversion of waste and developing ways to use waste as a resource.

Moved by W. Bracken, Seconded by K. Meydam,
That the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee recommend to the Works Committee for approval:

That the following list of suggested actions be forwarded to Works staff during the consideration of the Long-Term Waste Management Plan (LTWMP):

- Clear bag policy
- Single use plastics
- Increased enforcement
- Increased education (including a list of pros and cons for every kind of waste management decision)

- Providing details on cost
- Benefits of mulching
- Setting reduction targets and making those widely known to the public.

CARRIED

Clarification was given regarding the order of steps that need to occur for the development of the LTWMP. G. Anello advised that increasing enforcement as stated in the above motion would be an action that would need to be associated with a certain objective. He advised that there will be targets associated with the 5-year action plans and how the Region would meet those targets.

In response to a question regarding putting together examples of how to meet the LTWMP objectives, G. Anello advised that once the outline is approved by Regional Council, staff can begin drafting the LTWMP, and further to that, the 5-year action plans. He advised that the action plans are developed first and would then be used to inform the budget.

4. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EFW-WMAC will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 in Council Chambers, at 7:00 PM, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

5. Adjournment

Moved by T. Farrell, Seconded by K. Meydam,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

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

S. Glover, Committee Clerk