

NIAGARA REGION
WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

HUMBERSTONE LANDFILL SITE PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

Notes of a meeting of the Humberstone Landfill Site Public Liaison Committee (PLC) held at Civic Square, Room #109, 60 East Main St., City of Welland, on Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Mike Dickman, Trevor Stratton, Timothy Clegg, Pat Chiocchio, Regional Councillor

Staff: Jamie Kristjanson, Hydrogeologist Environmental Engineer
Sandy Sawatzky, Waste Management Clerk/Program Administrator
Emil Prpic, Associate Director Disposal Operations & Engineering
Isaac Van Ravenswaay, Supervisor Waste Disposal Operations

Regrets: Jay Mitchell, Jim Larouche, Councillor City of Welland

Guests: Leo VanVliet

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted and the meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Moved by: Timothy Clegg

Seconded: Pat Chiocchio

Carried

2. VOTING OF INTERIM CHAIR

Motion: to nominate Trevor Stratton to Chair current meeting

Moved by: Mike Dickman

Seconded: Timothy Clegg

Carried

Trevor Stratton accepts

3. MEMBERSHIP

- Current citizen membership has been extended to May 31st 2019 due to Niagara Region assessing which committees to retain. The Humberstone PLC will be retained as an advisory committee to Regional Council.
- The Region Clerks office will advertise for new citizen members. The Terms of Reference for the PLC (a guide on the purpose of the PLC and how it operates) allows up to 6 citizen members.

- A member asked if the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) recommended a Public Liaison Committee for the Humberstone Landfill Site. Region staff responded that in the Ministry approval for the municipal Environmental Assessment for the vertical expansion of the Landfill, the Ministry stated that a PLC committee be retained as long as there is public interest in having committee. It also stated that if there was no interest in having the PLC, then the Region has to keep the community aware of issues at the landfill.
- A member provided comment that the Committee has retained a hydrogeologist to provide an independent set of eyes along with the Committee. Region staff responded that the Committee has a \$6,000 annual budget to retain the services of a consultant to advise them on the operations or monitoring of the landfill. The PLC had previously retained Wilf Ruland, an independent hydrogeologist that specializes in helping PLCs around Ontario to understand landfill monitoring issues, to review the annual monitoring report for the Humberstone Landfill that the Region provides to the Ministry.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS NOTES and Member Information Requests

Notes of the March 14, 2018 meeting.

Comments/Questions:

- A member asked if the Landfill produces enough methane gas to burn and produce revenue by generating electricity. Region staff responded that a consultant (Golder Associates) completed an assessment on how much methane gas would need to be produced by the landfill and captured to make generating electricity a viable option. The gas collection and flare system would need to be flaring gas on a continuous basis to be able to generate electricity to put into the electrical grid. Currently there is insufficient gas being produced by waste decomposition, and the gas flare only operates one day a week. Also, as waste collection moves towards more diversion of organics out of the landfill and towards composting, the new waste being landfilled will have less organics in it to decompose to make methane.
- Landscaping Plan for St. George Park. The landscape drawings had been provided to the PLC. The firm Touchstone, a landscaping contractor, was retained to plant the trees on the berms at the south end of St. George Park. Planting will occur in the fall 2019 and will be coordinated with the City of Welland. A member asked why are there so many whips (very small trees) being planted. Region staff responded that many whips can be planted inexpensively. Some will die off while some will take and grow. Whips are supplemental in succession growth, and will fill in the open areas between the larger trees being planted.

- A member asked when the newly approved landfill capacity will start to be used. Region staff responded that there is from 12 months to 18 months of remaining capacity before the newly approved capacity will start to be used. At the moment there is an agreement in draft between the Region and the City on a waste royalty, where the City will receive royalty payments when the new capacity starts to be used.

Motion: to accept the Meeting Notes

Moved by: Timothy Clegg

Seconded: Trevor Stratton

Carried

5. UPDATE ON LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION AND FLARE SYSTEM

- Phase 2 of the gas collection system is scheduled to be installed during spring/summer 2019. A series of trenches will be excavated about 3 m into the waste, perforated collection pipe placed into the trenches and the trenches backfilled with gravel and then waste. There is the potential for odours as will be digging into the waste. The contractor will complete the work before June 6th which is the date that the swimming pool opens in St. George Park. The contractor has an odour control plan which will be implemented if odours were to affect the community. There will be sniff-testing along the landfill fence line on a daily basis, and if odours are detected then the work will be modified or temporarily stopped, and odour suppressing agents applied.

6. UPDATE OF THE HUMBERSTONE LANDFILL EXPANSION

- The MECP provided approval for the Landfill expansion in the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) issued February 5, 2019. The MECP also consolidated all of the other individual ECAs for the Landfill (Waste Disposal, Sewage, and Air/Noise) into this one document.
- The leachate pumping station operations will be upgraded for remote monitoring. Operations staff will be able to check on pump operation from anywhere and at any time from the internet.
- The secondary leachate collection system (sLCS) in the southwest corner of Landfill is scheduled for installation during summer 2020. The purpose of the sLCS is to capture possible leachate-impacted groundwater that may be moving underneath the shallowest portion of the main leachate collection system in this area of the Site.
- The perimeter ditch at the base of the landfill sideslope will be lined with an impermeable plastic membrane. The work is scheduled for summer 2020. Currently some of the runoff flowing in the ditch infiltrates downwards into the adjacent perimeter leachate collection system. This increases the volume that is

pumped to the Welland Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment. If the treatment plant is at processing capacity during snowmelt or a heavy rainstorm, than a landfill leachate holding tank has been proposed to hold several days volume of pumped leachate, temporarily keeping it away from the treatment plant. However, the size of the holding tank will depend on how successful the ditch lining is at stopping stormwater from entering the leachate collection system.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- The committee members discussed the retention of a third party consultant, as had been done in previous years, to review the annual monitoring report. The consensus was to retain the hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland to review the 2018 annual environmental monitoring report as he is very knowledgeable and has performed well in the past.

Motion: for Region staff to contact Wilf Ruland to obtain a proposal, and to retain Wilf Ruland to review the 2018 annual environmental monitoring report.

Moved: Trevor Stratton

Seconded: Mike Dickman

Carried

- Citizen provided a photograph taken at the Landfill of the Region's maintenance contractor creating wind-blown dust while cleaning dirt from the vehicle weigh scale area using compressed air equipment. The dust was blowing onto cars travelling to the inbound weigh scale. Region staff responded that we are aware of the incident and have spoken with the maintenance contractor to clean the weigh scale area on a wet day and with an electric broom.

Next meeting: July with suggested dates to be sent to the Committee.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Trevor Stratton

Seconded: Tim Clegg

Committee adjourned at 8:40pm

Carried