

Regional Councillor Report

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Technologies for Pre-sort and Anaerobic Digestion Facilities Educational Tour – July 2016

Regional Waste department staff and three Councillors, as well as the Regional Chair, visited facilities in France and Spain to see and learn about different technologies used there to treat waste. Please see attachment.

Regional staff will present a report to Committee of the Whole in late 2016 or early 2017 with recommendations as a result of a study, which is exploring and comparing pre-sort technology/pre-treatment and anaerobic digestion technical options. This study includes technical and financial/business case analysis.

Regional Council – Sept 14, 2016

Amberly Gavel Ltd.

The Region received correspondence from Amberley Gavel Ltd. regarding their investigation of the closed meetings of Durham Regional Council held on December 22, 2015 and January 27, 2016. Their findings concluded the Region breached the open meetings requirement of the Municipal Act on those dates. In their opinion, there were major portions of the discussion that could have been made public and transparent with good planning and careful management of the meeting flow.

Regional staff are reviewing the report and implementing some changes as a result.

Code of Conduct

Council adopted a Code of Conduct for Members of Council which addresses such matters as; conduct at meetings, conduct with staff and the public, acceptance of gifts, benefits, services and hospitality, handling of confidential material and use of Regional property, service and resources. The penalties should the Integrity Commissioner rule that there has been a violation of the code can be a reprimand or suspension of remuneration for a period of up to 90 days.

Regional Structure & Procedural Bylaw

A new procedural bylaw was approved to implement the changes necessary in moving to a Committee of the Whole governance structure.

A notice of motion that the Region revert back to the Standing Committee structure in existence prior to September 7, 2016 with the exception that Joint Committee meetings be Committee of the Whole meetings was tabled until March 2017.

Regional Composition

Durham Region approved the Bylaw to Change the Composition of Regional Council which removes two Regional Councillors from Oshawa and redistributes them by allocating Ajax and Whitby with one each. A majority of lower tier municipalities that have a majority of the population in Durham Region now have to endorse this change in order for it to be in effect.

Toronto Region Conservation Authority – Sept 23, 2016

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority approved their submission of comments to the province on the Provincial Four Plan Review. TRCA staff generally supported the proposed policy changes; however, they recommended some changes that if implemented, could further strengthen and support the progressive intent of the plans. Of these, staff identified the following issues to be paramount and strongly advocated that they be incorporated into the Province's amended plans immediately:

1. New policies are needed to require the completion of an “urban MESP (municipal environmental servicing plan)” for areas of major urban redevelopment, especially in flood vulnerable areas;
2. The Climate Change policies in the Growth Plan must require official plan implementation and should be enhanced to tie-back the policies to other climate change references throughout the plans, especially to highlight the role that watershed planning can play in developing mitigation and adaptation strategies;
3. The definition, scope and content of watershed and subwatershed plans needs to be harmonized and fully integrated among the four plans, with clear goals to protect, enhance, and restore natural heritage and water resource systems; and
4. The role of conservation authorities in implementing the plans should be more clearly recognized and conservation authority expertise fully utilized and leveraged in the creation of guidance materials for plan implementation, as well as for monitoring and measuring performance of the plans in achieving their environmental objectives.

With regards to the Greenbelt Plan the staff report highlighted the risks of developing upstream. The following is from the TRCA report.

Downstream Impacts from Headwaters Development

Increased impervious surfaces result from continued growth in the upper watersheds, which leads to increased flows in watercourses during major storm events. This in turn increases the risk to downstream communities and infrastructure from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion. We have experienced severe storms, which are likely to increase in frequency due to climate change. These storms have eroded the bed and banks of watercourses, exposing buried gas and oil pipelines, water mains and sanitary sewers. Once exposed, this infrastructure is vulnerable to surface flows and potential damage and rupture from in-stream rocks and other objects moving in the strong current. Rupture of and subsequent spills from these pipelines and sewers can cause environmental degradation, contamination of drinking water or the potential for gas line explosions or fires. Streams in the upper reaches of watersheds have limited ability to assimilate the additional flow generated by urbanization. Flood lines downstream are likely to expand due to the increased flows, increasing the number of homes, people, and businesses at

risk from the higher depths and velocities of flood flows included within the expanded areas subject to flooding.

The TRCA Board approved the following;

Headwaters areas of the rivers and creeks within TRCA watersheds be designated as Greenbelt lands especially those areas that are almost fully surrounded by other Greenbelt lands, such as those in the headwaters of the Carruthers Creek and Rouge and Humber River watersheds.

Committee of the Whole – Oct 5, 2016

Carruthers Headwaters

COW endorsed recommendations commenting on the Provincial Plans currently under review.

Over 150 letters were submitted in support of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority's motion to include Carruthers headwaters in the Greenbelt. Delegations also spoke in support of this position.

An amendment to support the TRCA motion and request that the province designate the Carruthers headwaters as Greenbelt lands was defeated on a vote of 21 to 8.