



## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL

### WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES

**WMSAC - 3/2019**

The Region of Peel Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee met on October 3, 2019 at 11:03 a.m., in the Regional Council Chambers, 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

**Members Present:** G.S. Dhillon♦; N. Iannicca♦; J. Innis; J. Kovac; M. Mahoney; M. Palleschi; I. Sinclair\*; R. Starr

**Members Absent:** P. Fortini, due to other municipal business; A. Groves, due to illness; K. Ras, due to personal matters

**Also Present:** N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer; S. Baird, Commissioner of Digital and Information Services; C. Matheson, Commissioner of Corporate Services; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; P. O'Connor, Regional Solicitor; A. Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works; J. Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services; C. Granger, Acting Commissioner of Health; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Legal Services; N. Lee, Director, Waste Management; S. Jurrius, Committee Clerk; S. Herod, Legislative Assistant; S. MacGregor, Legislative Assistant

*Chaired by Councillor R. Starr.*

#### 1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Nil

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

##### RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-8-2019:

That the agenda for the October 3, 2019 Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee meeting be amended to include an oral presentation regarding recycling, to be dealt with under Reports – Item 4.6;

And further, that the agenda for the October 3, 2019 Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

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\* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

**3. DELEGATIONS – Nil**

**4. REPORTS**

**Additional Item – Item 4.6 was dealt with.**

**4.6. Recycling: Is It Worth It? (Oral)**

Presentation by Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management

Received

**RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-9-2019:**

That the Region of Peel support the development of a province-wide strategy to reduce problematic or unnecessary single use plastics;

And further, that Regional staff participate in discussions with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Retail Council of Canada; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga; the Town of Caledon; Peel MPPs and other stakeholders to develop a harmonized province-wide strategy to reduce problematic or unnecessary single-use plastics.

*Councillor Sinclair arrived at 11:07 a.m.*

Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management, provided an update on recent developments and articles from the Toronto Star and CBC's Marketplace that questioned the need for recycling. Since the publications were released, Regional staff received several calls from residents who expressed concern.

Norman Lee stated that Peel's recycling program has been successful – the blue box program has a recovery rate of over 90 per cent based from monthly audits. In Peel Region, 83 percent of the materials collected goes to recyclable markets and only 17 per cent goes to landfill. Approximately 64 per cent of the recyclable material from multi-residential buildings is placed in the garbage by residents and goes straight to landfill, where only 36 per cent are recycled. Norman Lee advised that more work is needed to improve recycling requiring solutions at the provincial and federal levels of government. Staff recommends that the Region continue engagement in and support of National Plastics Strategy and Provincial Blue Box Transition, 3Rs Regulations, Food and Organic Waste Policy and Plastics Strategy.

Norman Lee informed the Committee that the Retail Council of Canada sent a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting the province to develop a province-wide single-use plastic policy.

Councillor Palleschi stated that, prior to construction of homes or buildings within the jurisdiction of the Region of Peel, Regional and local municipal staff should have a conversation with local contractors and businesses regarding proper recycling.

The Regional Chair was requested by the Committee to write a letter to the Toronto Star and the CBC highlighting Peel's waste management efforts and to emphasize the importance of recycling.

Councillor Innis requested that Regional staff provide key messages that Council can share to the community via Twitter.

Councillor Mahoney requested that Regional staff report back to the Committee with an update on banning single-use plastics at Regional and local municipal facilities; and, provide Committee with a project update on the Multi-Residential Enforcement Strategy pilot project. He stated that other municipalities, such as Ancaster, have implemented single-use plastics policies and he suggested that Regional staff reach out to other jurisdictions to use as a benchmark for Peel.

Councillor Sinclair suggested that responses to the article include information on landfill capacity and the loss of farmlands due to landfills.

Regional Chair Iannicca informed the Committee that the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has invited Peel senior staff; the Regional Chair; and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee, to discuss waste issues in Peel.

In response to suggestions from Councillor Starr, Norman Lee stated that Regional staff will prepare articles for the Councillors' newsletters to reinforce the waste management initiatives and proper recycling in Peel on a quarterly basis.

Regional Chair Iannicca suggested that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) be invited to the discussions with the Ministry and other stakeholders on single-use plastics.

Councillor Innis requested that the future report regarding completion of the Multi-Residential Enforcement Strategy (the Strategy) pilot project include information on a communication strategy; a step by step process as it relates to the roles of the Region and local municipalities; planning and development charge implications; measures to ensure ease of use by the residents; and track measures of participation.

Councillor Mahoney requested that the local municipalities and Peel MPPs be invited to the discussions with the Ministry and other stakeholders on single-use plastics policy.

**Item 4.4 was dealt with.**

**4.4. Update on the Transition of the Blue Box Program to Full Producer Responsibility**

**RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-10-2019:**

That the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, write to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to thank him for moving the Blue Box transition forward and to reiterate Peel's position on key points as described in the report of the Acting Commissioner of Public Works titled "Update on the Transition of the Blue Box Program to Full Producer Responsibility".

*Councillor Dhillon departed at 12:14 p.m.*

**4.1. Waste Management Proposed Fees Increases and Community Recycling Centre (CRC) Public Consultations (Oral)**

Presentation by Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management and Erwin Pascual, Manager, Waste Planning

**Received**

Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management and Erwin Pascual, Manager, Waste Planning provided a high-level overview of the proposed fee increases to community recycling centre tipping fees, garbage bag tags and agricultural compost sales sold directly at the Peel Curing Facility. Subject to the Committee's approval, the proposed fee increases will be included in the 2020 Region of Peel budget submission and a communication strategy will be in place to notify residents of the changes to the fee structures.

Erwin Pascual gave an overview of the public consultation approach to engage Peel residents for feedback on potential service improvements and changes from the Community Recycling Centre Optimization Study. Feedback from the public consultation will be used to modify the potential service or policy changes; to finalize the Community Recycling Centre Optimization Study; and to develop implementation and communication plans for the changes.

In response to a question of clarification from Councillor Innis, Norman Lee stated that Peel is one of the last municipalities in Ontario that collects grass clippings as acceptable yard waste material. He said that Regional staff intends to report to the Committee next year with a proposal to remove grass clippings as acceptable yard waste material, including a proposed communication strategy to the public regarding the change in service. He advised that, should Council decide to eliminate this service, the Region will realize cost savings of approximately half a million dollars each year.

Councillor Innis stated that other Regional programs and services would benefit from the savings from grass clippings and requested that staff immediately proceed with the recommendation to remove this service for the Committee's review.

In response to questions of clarification from Councillor Starr, Norman Lee stated that should Council approve the proposed waste management fee increases, the Region would generate an additional \$1.5 million in revenues per year for community recycling centre fee changes;

\$267,000 in revenues per year for garbage bag tags; and, \$95,000 in revenue per year for agricultural compost sales.

Members of the Committee expressed concerns with the proposed waste management fee increases. The Committee directed staff to review and report back on the following matters:

- Consider adding cost of living increases as it relates to the overall waste management fees;
- Consider incrementally increasing waste management fees versus a one-time significant increase proposed by staff;
- Impacts of changing the fees for agricultural compost sales;
- Find solutions to minimize illegal dumping such as utilizing a swipe card that could allow contractors to dispose garbage at community recycling centres;
- Recommendations and proposed communication strategy to remove grass clippings as acceptable yard waste materials; and,
- Feasibility of providing lower fees for senior citizens.

Andrew Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works, suggested that the report listed as Item 4.2 on the October 3, 2019 Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee agenda be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to allow staff to take into consideration the comments received from the members.

**4.2. Proposed Waste Management Fee Increases**

RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-11-2019:

That the report of the Acting Commissioner of Public Works, titled “Proposed Waste Management Fee Increases”, be deferred to the next Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee meeting.

**4.3. Community Recycling Centre Optimization Study and Public Consultation Plan Update**

RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-12-2019:

That the public consultation approach to engage Peel residents for feedback on potential service improvements and changes from the Community Recycling Centre Optimization Study as described in the report from the Acting Commissioner of Public Works titled “Community Recycling Centre Optimization Study and Public Consultation Plan Update” be endorsed.

**4.4. Update on the Transition of the Blue Box program to Full Producer Responsibility**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**4.5. Lakeview Village - Update on Vacuum Waste Collection System Investigation, City of Mississauga, Ward 1**

Received

*Regional Chair Iannicca departed at 1:02 p.m., due to other municipal business.*

Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management, advised that staff received the preliminary costing from the developer and determined that it is a very expensive system. Regional staff are reviewing the financial implications, potential cost sharing from all parties and finding solutions to make the project work.

**4.6. Recycling: Is It Worth It? (Oral)**

Presentation by Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS – Nil**

**6. IN CAMERA MATTERS – Nil**

**7. OTHER BUSINESS – Nil**

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Regional Administrative Headquarters, Council Chamber, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Please forward regrets to Stephanie Jurrius, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800, extension 4502 or at [stephanie.jurrius@peelregion.ca](mailto:stephanie.jurrius@peelregion.ca).

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.