

MEMORANDUM

WMPSC-C 24-2023

Subject: Humberstone Landfill PLC Update

Date: August 29, 2023

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Emil Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operation & Engineering

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee on the status of the Humberstone Landfill Public Liaison Committee.

Background

Niagara Region assumed jurisdiction for the Humberstone Landfill Site from the City of Welland on January 1, 1997. The Humberstone Landfill Public Liaison Committee (PLC) was formed in 2002 to provide an opportunity for local residents and area municipalities to liaise with Niagara Region in a formal manner regarding all aspects of ongoing operations and disposal plans that may impact the community surrounding the landfill.

In addition, as part of the Environmental Assessment for the recent expansion of the Humberstone Landfill, the Notice of Approval issued on May 4, 2016, by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks states that Niagara Region shall maintain a PLC to provide a forum for public concerns to be raised and for mitigation measures to be discussed where appropriate.

The term of the PLC membership is for four (4) years to be concurrent with Regional Council's elected term of office, and the membership shall be approved by Council.

Humberstone Landfill Public Liaison Committee Composition

The Humberstone Landfill PLC Terms of Reference states that the PLC composition will be as follows:

- Membership for the PLC shall not exceed a maximum of nine (9) members.
- Membership for the PLC shall include:
 - Up to six (6) members representing residents, institutions or businesses of the area surrounding the Humberstone Landfill Site.

- One (1) Area Municipal Councillor from any Ward within the City of Welland.
- One (1) Regional Councillor.
- One (1) additional Area Municipal Councillor, from the Township of Wainfleet, may be appointed to the PLC as the Landfill site is adjacent to the boundary with the Township of Wainfleet.

The PLC has been active over the past 20 years with generally good member participation during that time. However, during the most recent PLC term (2018 – 2022), there have been issues with obtaining a sufficient number of public members. In 2019, Clerks advertised on three separate occasions for members with one application being received during the first call, no applications on the second call and then four (4) applications being received on the third call. This past spring a membership call was advertised for the new council term and no applications were received.

In addition, when the PLC had a sufficient number of members there were challenges in meeting quorum. During the most recent PLC term there was a total of six (6) PLC meetings between April 2019 and September 2022. There was quorum in four (4) of the six (6) meetings. Additionally, a number of scheduled meetings were cancelled as it was known in advance that the meetings would not have quorum. It should be noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the PLC meetings took place virtually.

Next Steps for the Humberstone Public Liaison Committee

Over the past several years the PLC has not been functioning effectively nor as intended due to having an insufficient number of public members and / or not meeting quorum. Under Section 6 of the Notice of Approval it states that if there is no interest from the public in continuing the existing PLC or establishing and participating in a new committee, Niagara Region may discontinue the PLC and review the need for the PLC annually. Based on the challenges of obtaining the required number of public members, the PLC will be paused until Q1 2024 at which time staff will issue another membership call.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Emil Prpic, Associate Director, Waste Disposal Operation & Engineering
Waste Management Services, Public Works