
Subject: Status of the Waste Management Advisory Committee

Report to: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

Report date: Monday, October 28, 2019

Recommendations

1. That the Waste Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) **BE DISCONTINUED**, effective immediately.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation regarding the status of the WMAC and to respond to the Councillor Information Request made at the August 26, 2019 Waste Management Planning Steering Committee (WMPSC) meeting, requesting information on options to include citizen members on the WMPSC, given that the Region received a limited number of applications for membership on the WMAC, for the current four-year Council term.
- On April 15, 2019, Niagara Region advertised for citizen members for all of its advisory Committees. Applications were taken over a two-week period.
- Due to the minimal interest in the WMAC, the Region contacted these applicants and obtained their support for repurposing the WMAC into an ad-hoc committee, instead.
- Supplementary to extensive communication/outreach the Region already undertakes, the Region will call upon those interested individuals to participate in focus groups and/or attend meetings, as required by the Region, to obtain their input on various projects.
- An independent external governance review was conducted last year (CLK 05-2019 - Recommendations from Independent External Governance Auditor – First Report). As a result, a number of Regional Advisory/Steering Committees were discontinued by Regional Council in February 2019 because the Committees had not met in quite some time or their mandate was no longer relevant.
- The Region is proposing that the WMAC be discontinued, effective immediately. This will mean that the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee will only have Regional Councillors as members.

Financial Considerations

Currently, two (2) Regional staff are required to attend five (5) WMAC evening meetings each year. If the WMAC is discontinued, there would be a savings associated with Regional staff no longer attending these meetings.

Analysis

Background

The initial intent of the WMAC was to provide input on the development of the Niagara Region's long-term waste plan, which required regularly scheduled meetings. However, the content of recent WMAC meetings has mainly included reports, which were previously presented to WMPSC and/or Public Works Committee (PWC). These reports are available to all members of the public for review on-line. In addition, WMAC members and the public can attend WMPSC and PWC meetings, or request to speak/present at these meetings, if they wish to do so.

Proposed Option for WMAC

The Region received three (3) applications for membership on the WMAC before the submission deadline, and another two (2) applications were received after the deadline. Due to the minimal interest, the Region contacted these five (5) applicants and obtained their support for repurposing the WMAC into an ad-hoc committee, instead. As a result, the Region is proposing that the WMAC be discontinued, effective immediately.

The Region will call upon those interested individuals to participate in focus groups and/or attend meetings, as required by the Region, to obtain their input on various projects. This would be supplementary to the extensive communication/outreach the Region already undertakes for these projects.

Comparison of Other Municipalities

Appendix 1 provides an overview of the various public waste management advisory and/or standing committees at twelve (12) of Niagara Region's comparator municipalities (i.e. Cities of Guelph, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Toronto, and Windsor, Simcoe County, and the Regions of Durham, Halton, Peel, Waterloo and York).

Based upon a review of these twelve (12) comparator municipalities:

- Seven (7) of these municipalities (i.e. Durham, Peel, Simcoe, Toronto, Waterloo, Windsor and York) do not have any public waste management advisory committee, which is comparable to Niagara Region's WMAC;
- Three (3) of these municipalities (i.e. Halton, Hamilton and Ottawa) have public waste management advisory committees, which include both residents and Councillor representation; and,
- Two (2) of these municipalities (i.e. Guelph and London) have public waste management advisory committees, which include resident representation only.
- All twelve (12) of these municipalities do not include any citizen members on their standing committees of Council.

Options to Include Citizen Members on the WMPSC

In accordance with the WMAC's Terms of Reference, the WMAC Chair and another member designated by the WMAC sit as the only non-political members of the

WMPSC. These WMAC members do not have a vote on legal or financial matters presented to the WMPSC, for consideration. If the Region's proposal to discontinue the WMAC is approved by Council, there would no longer be any citizen representation on the WMPSC.

The WMPSC currently has a membership of nine (9) Regional Councillors, not including the Regional Chair. If it is the WMPSC's intention to include citizen members on the Committee, the current Committee's Terms of Reference would need to be amended to provide for a designated number of citizen members, along with the criteria for membership.

Alternatives Reviewed

An alternative to discontinuing the WMAC would be to maintain it. This is not being recommended due to the limited number of interested residents. With only five (5) members, a quorum of three (3) members would be required at each meeting, which may be difficult to obtain.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The Region's recommendation to discontinue the WMAC supports Council's strategic priority of Sustainable and Engaging Government by promoting an organizational culture that values continuous improvement, collaboration, and innovation.

Other Pertinent Reports

CLK 05-2019 - Recommendations from Independent External Governance Auditor – First Report

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Appendix 1 – Comparison of Other Municipalities’ Waste Management Advisory and/or Standing Committees

Municipality	Committee Mandates	Committee Compositions
Durham Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable
	<u>Works Committee:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports to Council on matters relating to Regional public works and infrastructure (i.e. roads, water and waste-water, waste management). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works Committee is comprised of eight (8) members of Council only.
Guelph	<u>Public Advisory Committee (PAC):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum for in-depth discussion of key study issues, concerns and solutions; • Not a decision-making body and does not have the authority to vote or commit City resources; • Any recommendations made by the PAC are submitted to Committee of the Whole (COTW), for approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAC is comprised of nine (9) members appointed by Guelph City Council. • PAC members may not be employees of the City of Guelph or members of Council.
	<u>Committee of the Whole:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully participates in debate and forwards recommendations to Council for final decision; • Important forum for policy debate and public input on issues within Council’s area of responsibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COTW is comprised of members of Council only.
Halton Region	<u>Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (SWMAC):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises and assists the Region with minimizing waste going to the landfill site; • Supports Regional efforts to promote reduction, reuse and recycling (3Rs) of solid waste generated in Halton and limit off-site impacts due to operations at the Halton Waste Management Site; • Helps monitor waste haulage in the Region as required by the Conditions of Approvals under the Environmental Assessment Act, 1990; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWMAC is comprised of the following members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Four (4) Councillors, one from each Local Municipality, either Regional or Local ○ Eight (8) citizens-at-large (preferably, at least four (4) of whom live near the Halton Waste Management Site) ○ One (1) member from the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined the mandates of the 2014 to 2018 Joint Municipal/ Regional Waste Management Advisory Committee and Halton Waste Management Site Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) member from Conservation Halton One (1) member of Regional staff who performs the Environmental Inspector duties (advisory, non-voting)
	<p><u>Planning & Public Works Committee (PPWC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports to Council on matters relating to Regional planning and public works and infrastructure, including (but not limited to) community planning, sustainable planning & climate change, planning policy, water & wastewater services, waste management, road operations, and infrastructure engineering and construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPWC is comprised of ten (10) members of Council only.
Hamilton	<p><u>Waste Management Advisory Committee (WMAC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides overall guidance and direction during the preparation of the City's long-term Solid Waste Management Master Plan; Advises Council through the Public Works Committee of the study progress and receives feedback, advice and direction, as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WMAC is comprised of four to five (4 to 5) members, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to three (3) members of City Council; Two (2) citizen members.
	<p><u>Public Works Committee (PWC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports to and make recommendations to Council on various matters, which include Waste Management (Solid Waste Planning, Collection, and Disposal). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWC is comprised of members of Council only.
London	<p><u>Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports to Council, through Planning and Environment Committee (PEC); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACE is comprised of a maximum of thirteen (13) members consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine (9) members-at-large; One (1) representative of the Environmental and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides input, advice and makes recommendations on environmental matters affecting the City; • Serves as an advisory, resource and information support group to PEC, Council, and its Committees, as required, and to the citizenry to encourage and promote sustainable programs and functions such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ remedial planning toward the clean-up of contaminated areas; ○ waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs; ○ water and energy conservation measures; ○ climate change mitigation; ○ to investigate such other aspects of environmental concerns as may be suggested by Council, its other Committees, or the Civic Administration; ○ to initiate and/or receive submissions and/or delegations regarding any environmental concerns and to report with recommendations to the PEC. 	<p>Ecological Planning Advisory Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One (1) representative of the Thames Region Ecological Association; ○ One (1) representative of an environmental and/or private sector interest group; ○ One (1) representative of the Industrial/Commercial/Institutional sector.
Ottawa	<p><u>Planning and Environment Committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports directly to Council; • Hears delegations from the public, present reports and recommendations to Council. <p><u>Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advise Council on policy, programs and service delivery in the area of environmental stewardship. • Responsible for providing advice to Council on issues pertaining to policy, programs and service delivery in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEC is comprised of five (5) members of Council only. • ESAC is comprised of a total maximum membership of between nine (9) to eleven (11) citizen members. • Membership also includes one (1) member of Council, in a liaison capacity.

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Municipality	Committee Mandates	Committee Compositions
	<p>area of environmental services, forests, greenspaces, parks, cycling and pedestrian issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available as a resource to staff, providing input on matters being pursued to achieve Council’s strategic priorities. • Responsible for ensuring that its business aligns with, and serves to complement, Council’s strategic priorities. <p><u>Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management (SCEPWWM):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for providing guidance and direction to Council on all issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ environmental services; ○ community sustainability; ○ storm water management; ○ solid waste management; ○ utilities/water and wastewater; ○ water pollution control; ○ urban forestry; ○ open spaces • Be responsible directly to Council for those items emanating from any advisory committees or sub-committees that are within the area of responsibility of the SCEPWWM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCEPWWM is comprised of members of Council only.
Peel Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peel does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. <p><u>Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee (WMSAC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides strategic guidance to Council on the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Strategy and the Infrastructure Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable • WMSAC is comprised of members of Council only.

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Simcoe County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simcoe does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable
	<u>Committee of the Whole (COTW):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports directly to County Council. • Within COTW, there are three (3) business sections: Performance Management, Human Services, and Corporate Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COTW is comprised of members of Council only.
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable
	<u>Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary focus is on infrastructure and the natural environment • Monitors and makes recommendations on Toronto's infrastructure needs and services, parks and forestry, and the sustainable use of Toronto's environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEC is comprised of members of Council only.
Waterloo Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterloo does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable
	<u>Planning and Works Committee (PWC):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for reviewing and reporting on all matters relating to planning issues and public works operated by the Region and other functions related to the Region's facilities, which includes residential and industrial waste management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWC is comprised of members of Council only.
Windsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windsor does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable
	<u>Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee (ETPSSC):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study and report to Council on all matters relating to the following: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETPSSC is comprised of five (5) members of Council only.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long-range capital projects; ○ Policy matters relating to general infrastructure development and design; ○ Environmental policies relating to waste management, waste water services, and other environmental matters; ○ Regional infrastructure matters; ○ Transportation networks including roads, and cycling and walking path systems. 	
York Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● York does not have a specific public Waste Management Advisory Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not Applicable
	<u>Committee of the Whole (COTW):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receives public input, reviews policies and considers staff reports, then recommends actions to Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COTW is comprised of members of Council only.

Note:

Some municipalities have citizen committees established for their landfill sites (i.e. Waterloo), parallel to Niagara Region, and for related disposal facilities such EFW (i.e. Durham).