



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: CA2022-001
Meeting Date: February 8, 2022
Title: **Future Waste Management Options Study**
Description: This report presents Council with a study of various options regarding the future of the City's waste management service and seeks direction on next steps.
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Recommendation(s):

That Report CA2022-001, **Future Waste Management Options Study**, be received;

That a public consultation for future options regarding the City's waste management service be conducted;

That staff report on the results of the public consultation by the end of Q3, 2022; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at a future Council meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council meeting of November 19, 2019, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2019-641

That Report WM2019-012, Making Waste Matter: Integrated Waste Management Strategy Update, be received;

That Council approves the integrated waste management strategy update for implementation with the following accelerated amendments;

That an immediate focus be placed on public education;

That an immediate enhanced online presence be implemented regarding recycling;

That a \$10/ton increase to the tipping fees be implemented in January 2020 and the increase in revenue be used to offset additional operating costs to enhance diversion; and

That the by-law for allowable recyclables in waste be amended to reduce the amount from 20% to 10% starting in early 2020.

One of the initiatives in the updated Integrated Waste Management Strategy is completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine future options for waste disposal once the City's approved landfill capacity is exhausted. In order to narrow the many options down to a recommended subset and to streamline and reduce the cost of the EA process, the City retained Dillon Consulting to undertake a Future Waste Options Study that would inform the EA. That study is attached hereto as Appendix A (main report) and Appendix B (report appendices).

The main output of Dillon's study is identification of the appropriate subset of options to be explored further through the EA process. This report updates Council on that study and, based on consultations with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, seeks further direction from Council. Such direction is needed before staff can proceed with preparing the terms of reference for the EA, which is a special project approved by Council for 2022. When that direction is sought, staff expects to ask Council to adopt the Future Waste Options Study, subject to the outcome of the public consultation.

Rationale:

The City provides waste management services, including diversion programs and disposal facilities. Waste generated in the City is disposed of at five landfills: Lindsay-Ops, Somerville, Eldon, Fenelon, and Laxton. The Lindsay-Ops Landfill receives nearly 70% of the City's waste, a figure that is expected to rise considerably upon closure of the Fenelon and Laxton Landfills within the next few years.

Approximately 27,500 tonnes of waste is annually disposed of at the Lindsay-Ops Landfill. According to the City of Kawartha Lakes Waste Strategy, the Lindsay-Ops Landfill is expected to reach its approved capacity by 2037, assuming disposal rates increase by about 1% annually to account for population growth. With waste disposed of at the Laxton and Fenelon Landfills expected to be diverted to the Lindsay-Ops Landfill within the next 4-5 years, the latter landfill will reach capacity well before 2037.

As the Lindsay-Ops Landfill could close as early as 2031 without provincial approval for expansion, the City requires preparation of a long-term plan for waste disposal through an EA process. Accordingly, the City retained Dillon Consulting in 2021 to conduct the Future Waste Options Study, which is designed to inform and greatly reduce the scope and cost of the EA. As indicated by that study, after considering all feasible and reasonable alternatives, Dillon Consulting is recommending that landfill expansion be the only option examined by the EA. With such a focused scope, the EA will be considerably more streamlined and cost-effective than it would otherwise be.

Based on consultations with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, staff is now looking to subject the study to a thorough public consultation. Through this report, staff is seeking direction from Council accordingly. Once the public consultation is concluded and its results analyzed, staff will report to Council of the outcome of the public consultation and seek further direction as needed at that time. That direction will inform the EA terms of reference and thus the EA itself. With a 2022 special project approved for the EA terms of reference, staff anticipates the EA to commence in 2023 as a multiyear special project. As the duration of the EA is expected to be several years, it is critical that preparations for the EA continue proceeding in a timely manner.

Other Alternatives Considered:

As the recommendations of this report are based on consultations with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, staff has not identified any alternatives to those recommendations.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

One of the four Strategic Priorities of the Plan is “A Healthy Environment”, and one of the main initiatives under that category is “Increase Waste Reduction and Diversion”. This initiative is supported in part through implementation of the updated Integrated Waste Management Strategy. Completion of an EA for future waste management options is an essential component of that strategy.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The public consultation constitutes an expansion of the scope of Special Project 921204501 (Waste Management EA Preparation). Staff plans to issue to Dillon Consulting a change order for this work at an estimated cost of \$30,000. After this additional commitment, the project would have a remaining surplus of about \$66,709.

Consultations:

Manager of Environmental Services

Attachments:

Appendix A: Future Waste Options Study – Main Report



Final Report -
Future Waste Optio

Appendix B: Future Waste Options Study – Appendices



Appendices
Compiled.pdf

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