

## **The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York**

### **MINUTES of the JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP (JWVG) for the DURHAM/YORK RESIDUAL WASTE STUDY**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007**

A meeting of the Joint Waste Management Group for the Durham/York Residual Waste Study was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Durham Region Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario, beginning at 1:10 p.m.

Present: Councillor C. Trim, Municipality of Clarington, Durham Region, Chair  
Councillor J. Heath, Town of Markham, York Region, left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.  
Councillor R. Johnson, City of Pickering, Durham Region, attended the meeting at 1:15 p.m.  
Councillor G. Landon, Town of Markham, York Region, attended the meeting at 1:25 p.m.  
Councillor D. Wheeler, Town of Georgina, York Region  
L. Burt, Resident, Township of Scugog, DEAC Representative  
M. Evans, Resident, Township of Brock  
B. Mersey, Resident, Town of Markham, Markham Conservation Committee  
S. Perrella, Resident, City of Vaughan, Vaughan CARES, attended the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

#### Alternates

Present: Councillor H. Herrema, Township of Uxbridge, Durham Region

Absent: Councillor S. Crawford, Town of Ajax, Durham Region  
Councillor G. Emm, Town of Whitby, Durham Region  
Councillor M. Ferri, City of Vaughan, York Region  
I. Gray, Resident, Town of Newmarket, Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee, with regrets  
J. McGinnis, Resident, City of Pickering, Durham Conservation Centre

#### Also

Present: Mayor J. Abernethy, Municipality of Clarington, Durham Region  
Councillor A. Foster, Municipality of Clarington, Durham Region  
Councillor C. Herrington, Northumberland County  
Councillor R. Hooper, Municipality of Clarington, Durham Region  
Councillor M. Novak, Municipality of Clarington, Durham Region, attended the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Staff Present: C. Bradley, Public Works Director, County of Peterborough  
A. Campbell, Director, Solid Waste Management, York Region  
G. Cubitt, Chief Administrative Officer, Durham Region  
C. Curtis, Commissioner of Works, Durham Region  
M. Gaskell, Senior Solicitor, Durham Region  
M. Januszkiewicz, Director of Waste Management Services, Durham Region  
T. Laverty, Works Communications Officer, Durham Region  
B. Lockett, Waste Management Technician, Durham Region  
E. Mastrangelo, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region  
J. McKay, Jacques Whitford  
D. Merriman, GENIVAR  
S. Munns-Audet, Director of Corporate Communications, Durham Region  
D. Payne, GENIVAR  
L. Riviere, Project Planner, Durham Region  
P. Russell, Director of Transportation and Waste, Northumberland County  
K. Spitzig, Policy and Planning Coordinator, York Region  
C. Bandel, Committee Secretary, Durham Region

Regional Councillor Trim chaired the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Wheeler,  
"THAT the agenda, as presented, be approved."  
CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Heath,  
"THAT the minutes of the Tuesday, March 27, 2007 Joint Waste  
Management Group meeting, be adopted."  
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE CONSULTANT'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING  
WHETHER TO SWITCH FROM THE FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TO  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCESS

D. Merriman provided an overview of the new Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening Process. He advised that waste projects are placed under one of three process streams and that thermal facilities with an energy-from-waste component may proceed under this screening process. These projects can be elevated to an Individual EA if warranted.

Under the new Environmental Screening Process there is the need to consult on all aspects of the proposed projects; to identify potential impacts on a broad range of environmental components; to conduct detailed studies to define impacts; and, to prepare an Environmental Screening Report for review by stakeholders. There is still the need to undertake rigorous and detailed site-specific studies of potential environmental impacts and to undertake extensive consultation and address any issues and concerns.

D. Merriman outlined some of the potential benefits of the new EA Screening Process. He advised this is a more streamlined process with the potential to reduce the overall approvals schedule, and that the decision regarding requests for elevation to an Individual EA lies with the Director of Environmental Assessment Approvals Branch within the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

D. Merriman also outlined some of the potential risks and challenges with the new EA Screening Process. He stated there could be a potential impact to the credibility and trust established with the public and stakeholders and there is no precedence for completing this new screening level. The same issues and opposition still need to be addressed and vendor selection and some Environmental Protection Act level studies are required before the submission of the Screening Report.

D. Merriman stated that due to the current status of the project and the level of effort completed to date, it is recommended to continue the completion of the Environmental Assessment process in accordance with the approved EA Terms of Reference.

The members of the Group raised questions relating to the new EA Screening process. D. Merriman advised that the same requirements are being met in the new screening process as in the current EA process.

MOVED by Councillor Heath,

"THAT the Durham/York Residual Waste Study continue with the completion of the Environmental Assessment process in accordance with the approved Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference."

CARRIED

5. REPORT ON PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS HELD APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>  
AND 21<sup>st</sup> ON THE SHORT LIST OF SITES

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J. McKay provided an update on the Public Information Sessions held on April 10<sup>th</sup> in East Gwillimbury and on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Clarington. Each session included a professional facilitator and began with a consultant's presentation and ended with a question and answer period. There were 96 registered attendees at the April 10<sup>th</sup> East Gwillimbury public information session. At the Clarington

session's there was 155 registered attendees for the April 12<sup>th</sup> session, 74 registered attendees for the April 14<sup>th</sup> session, and 66 registered attendees at the April 21<sup>st</sup> session.

Some of the major topics raised during the question and answer periods included concerns about air emissions and their effect on public health and the natural environment; the affect this would have on current diversion programs such as blue box recycling and green bin organics collection; traffic issues including routes and the number and type of trucks; how the sites were chosen; and, the type of technology being considered.

J. McKay advised that as a follow-up to the April information sessions, the facilitator will be preparing four separate reports on the open houses which will include the detailed question and answer section. These reports will be made available to all attendees and a copy will be provided to the members of the Joint Waste Management Group. J. McKay stated the consultants are also responding to additional questions that are currently being received by the facilitator's group, the consulting group and Regional staff. These responses are either in the form of a letter or as an e-mail response and every effort is being made to answer these questions in a timely manner. A full written record of all public input will be documented and included in the final Environmental Assessment submission.

Discussion ensued and it was stated that the open houses were very well attended and informative. The consultants and staff were congratulated for a job well done. It was pointed out that a common theme among the members of the public was the lack of advance notice with respect to meetings, and the lack of information provided on this process. It was suggested that the communications officers of Durham and York Regions come up with a plan for discussion at the next JWMG meeting that ensures a steady flow of information on this process is being sent out to the public, either in the form of media releases, advertisements, or notices. It was also requested that the agendas and minutes of each JWMG meeting be forwarded to all local and regional councillors in both Durham and York Regions.

MOVED by Regional Councillor Johnson,  
"THAT the report on the Public Information Sessions from J. McKay,  
Jacques Whitford, be received for information."

CARRIED

## 6. UPDATE ON RESOLUTIONS FROM DURHAM AND YORK COUNCILS

C. Curtis, Commissioner of Works, provided an update on the Energy from Waste Business Plan and Financial Impact Assessment reports which were adopted at Regional Council on April 18, 2007. He advised the recommendations adopted by Durham Region are slightly different than those of York Region. Durham Region has approved a business model which recommends the public ownership of an EFW facility with it being privately designed, built and operated. Durham Region will

be proceeding with the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on this basis. The report also approved the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with York Region as there are significant differences in the quantities of waste each municipality will supply for this facility and a commitment needs to be made on the tonnages. A clause has also been added which allows for the reimbursement to the Host Community for costs incurred for due diligence such as research. These costs will be deducted from royalty payments received by the host community. Durham Region has also directed that a letter be sent to the Premier of Ontario to begin the process for a Power Purchase Agreement.

A. Campbell, Director, Solid Waste Management, advised York Region adopted three reports which were slightly different than Durham Region's. The business model approved by York Region recommended that there be up to 49% of private sector ownership or funding of an EFW plant. The Community Host agreement also differs. The RFQ for vendors was deferred by York Council to a meeting in May in order to address the MOU and the put-or-pay issues.

A. Campbell and C. Curtis advised that both Durham and York Region are making every effort to work together at the staff level to ensure both Regions are endorsing the same issues. They responded to questions regarding the put-or-pay issue and it was clarified that the RFQ will address a range of tonnages for an EFW facility and may include extra capacity for growth but it will not include the incineration of recyclables and other divertible waste and will not negatively impact Blue Box recycling or other diversion efforts.

MOVED by Councillor Johnson,

"THAT the update from C. Curtis, Commissioner of Works, and A. Campbell, Director, Solid Waste Management, be received for information."

CARRIED

## 7. PROJECT SCHEDULE – SHORT LIST EVALUATION PROCESS

J. McKay, Jacques Whitford, gave a brief overview of the project schedule for the next few months. He advised they are on schedule with the project will be proceeding with the more detailed short-list evaluation studies.

The schedule includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Collection and research of air and water data
- Land use assessments (to be done in the next two weeks)
- Stage 1 Archeological assessments (to be done at the end of May)
- Traffic impact assessments
- Infrastructure and servicing assessments (to be done in the next few weeks)
- Discussions with electrical power companies to negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

- Discussions with private property owners
- Identifying potential heat load uses
- Marketing of steam power

General discussion ensued regarding the use, selling and marketing of energy and heat generated by the EFW facility.

MOVED by Councillor Johnson,  
"THAT the update from J. McKay, Jacques Whitford, on the upcoming project schedule be received for information."

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING: MAY 29, 2007

The next meeting of the JWVG is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in the Region of York.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Johnson,  
"THAT the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

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C. Trim, Chair  
Joint Waste Management Group