

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending December 20, 2013

REPORTS

1. Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee – 2013 Annual Report

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Municipality of East Ferris – Resolution regarding the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund
2. Township of Centre Wellington – Announcing its 2014 capital budget

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

INFORMATION REPORT



TO **Guelph City Council**

SERVICE AREA Planning, Building, Engineering and Environment
DATE December 18, 2013

**SUBJECT Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory
Committee - 2013 Annual Report**

REPORT NUMBER

SUMMARY

In July of 2009, the Guelph Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee (WCEPAC) was formed by Council resolution to provide an ongoing mechanism for feedback and advice to staff on key aspects of implementation of the 2009 Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy. The WCEPAC continues to be a very active Committee meeting 5 times throughout 2013 offering valuable insights on opportunities for continued optimization of current water conservation programming and policy as well as the enhancement of education, engagement and outreach resources offered by the City. In alignment with requirements of the WCEPAC Terms of Reference, staff are pleased to provide the following annual report sharing the Committee's contributions within 2013.

BACKGROUND

In July 2009, the Guelph Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee (WCEPAC) was formed by Council resolution. The purpose of the WCEPAC is to provide ongoing feedback and advice to staff on key aspects of implementation of the City's Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy, including input on:

- Issues and opportunities to be addressed during the implementation of the 2009 Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy;
- Alternative solutions;
- Design considerations;
- Community consultation and communications plans; and
- Other relevant matters that City staff refer to the PAC for feedback.

Staff are pleased to provide the following report detailing 2013 activities of the WCEPAC.

REPORT

2013 WCEPAC Meetings

In accordance with the Council-approved WCEPAC Terms of Reference, the Committee is required to “meet quarterly at minimum with additional meetings to be called as required by the Committee Chair.” The WCEPAC continues to be an active advisory committee with a total of five (5) committee meetings held in 2013. For reference, the 2013 WCEPAC schedule of meeting was as follows:

- January 23, 2013;
- February 27, 2013;
- May 1, 2013;
- October 3, 2013;
- November 7, 2013.

Water Supply Master Plan Update

In 2006 Guelph City Council approved the Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP), detailing water supply requirements of projected community growth and preferred water servicing requirements to meet the needs of new and existing customers. The WSMP identified water conservation as the most cost-effective and immediately available source of new supply and included three reduction targets based on 2006 daily water production volumes:

- Reduction of 10% (5,300 m³/day) in average day water use by 2010;
- Reduction of 15% (7,950 m³/day) in average day water use by 2017; and
- Reduction of 20% (10,600 m³/day) in average day water use by 2025

In May of 2013 Guelph Water Services initiated an update to the WSMP to define the City’s approach to a sustainable supply of water—for residential and industrial use—over the next 25 year planning horizon. With recognition to the important role of water conservation in future community water supply, project managers leading the WSMP update met with the WCEPAC twice within 2013 to introduce the master plan and attain feedback from the Committee on strategic direction, the planning process, proposed methodologies for water demand projections, and water efficiency and conservation goal setting as part of the update process. Through this ongoing process additional consultation with the WCEPAC is anticipated within 2014.

Outside Water Use By-law Review

In response to concerns received through implementation of Level 2 Red outdoor water use restrictions during the prolonged drought periods of 2012, Water Services initiated a review of the Outside Water By-law in January 2013. This multi-phase public process, designed in accordance with the City’s Community Engagement Framework, engaged residents and local stakeholders in an interactive dialogue on potential changes to the program and by-law. As part of the by-law review engagement process, ongoing consultation was completed with the WCEPAC on the proposed public engagement process, opportunities for soliciting participation of community stakeholders and proposed by-law changes and associated City programming resources stemming from stakeholder feedback. With input from both the Committee, community stakeholders and the public, proposed

by-law and program revisions were approved by Guelph City Council in October 2013.

Public Education, Engagement and Outreach

In alignment with the City's 2010 Water Conservation Public Education Communications Strategy (WCPECS), additional educational programming elements and outreach measures were brought to the WCEPAC for review, comment and approval within 2013. This included consultation regarding the City's second year of participation in Canada Water Week programming with a number of activities offered locally including a speakers event, Water Wednesdays family education programming, a school art project, and the first *H₂O Go! Festival* at City Hall. The inaugural *H₂O Go! Festival* was a very popular resource attracting over 400 local residents during this initial one day event. In total, this success event featured workshops, information sessions, community booths, performances by local artists and interactive children's activities celebrating the protection, conservation and stewardship of our precious water resources.

Throughout the course of Canada Water Week, the WCEPAC also spearheaded a social media campaign – Ideas that Hold Water – garnering the community's feedback on a variety of local water themes to help inform a Guelph water ethic. Review of this information is currently ongoing by the Committee with next steps to be defined the WCEPAC's 2014 Committee Work Plan.

Guelph Water Conservation and Efficiency Awards

In March of 2008 staff introduced the Guelph Water Conservation and Efficiency Awards. These awards recognize community members making a difference through water conservation and showcase local success stories that build capacity and increase the impact of water conservation in Guelph.

In 2013 the WCEPAC chose to recognize Reid's Heritage Homes through the Guelph Water Conservation and Efficiency Award - Business Sector Award for the organization's leadership in water efficient and low impact development building practices. This included the City's first Blue Built Home Community – the Enclave at Waterford, as well as North America's first LEED Platinum Home located in Guelph's Westminster Woods Community.

Next Steps

In addition to items noted above, the 2014 work plan for the WCEPAC is anticipated to include the following:

- Consultation on final water demand forecasts and water reduction targets of the Water Supply Master Plan update;
- Consultation on communications and promotional campaigns for revised requirements of the Outside Water Use By-law;
- Consultation through review of standards for design and installation of private irrigation systems;
- Program development for the City's 2014 Canada Water Week and World Water Day festivities;

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- Consultation on the City's Water & Wastewater Rate Review (five year review);
 - Consultation through the 2014 update of the City's 2009 Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy (five year review).

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

- 2.1 Build an adaptive environment for government innovation to ensure fiscal and service sustainability.
- 3.1 Ensure a well designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City.
- 3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

City Clerk's Office

COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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October 16, 2013

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: The Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund

I am writing to advise you of my great disappointment and concern with the recent announcement regarding the distribution of the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund. We received the announcement late Friday October 4th 2013.

Municipalities individually and collectively through AMO and ROMA/OGRA have provided honest and quantitative input to your government over the past year regarding the best method to distribute these monies. We have all put a great deal of effort into this process but obviously the consultations were a complete waste of everyone's time and energy. We are back to the hat in hand/lottery system for the distribution of funds. This is a total disregard for the input of the municipalities of this province.

In addition, municipalities are being given less than one month to choose a project and develop an Expression of Interest. Municipalities are currently working on their municipal asset management plans and preparing for their 2014 budget deliberations. Many asset management plans will not be completed before the end of this year yet we are all being asked to submit an Expression of Interest by November 1st 2013 which promotes poor priority planning and provides little time for proper decision making.

The proposed process is once again geared to larger urban municipalities which have the capacity to quickly respond to the Expression of Interest call and application submission rather than to the very Small, Rural and Northern municipalities which it is supposed to help.

We have been told that this program was truly going to be for small, rural and northern communities but the definition of 'small and rural' has been confirmed to include municipalities with a population of up to 100,000. We wonder how a city of 100,000 can be considered to be a small and rural community. This also means that 95 per cent of our municipalities will qualify.

Our Municipality was shut out of the first round of MIII funding last year and had to move forward and complete the selected road project this year, at our cost, which resulted in a tax increase for our ratepayers (3.4% this year).

We appreciate the funding that we have received over the years and more recently in 2009 through a Building Canada Fund Program and the NOHFC for the renovation of the East Ferris Community Centre/Arena which extended its life and allows us to continue to serve our residents and those of the surrounding communities. However, the Municipality of East Ferris has not received any substantial funding for our roads for over 5 years and we are in a difficult position. We were completely shut out of both the Stimulus Fund Program and the last Building Canada Fund (BCF) program for roads projects. We have seen the list of approved projects from that round of funding and are aware that while municipalities were told to submit no more than three stimulus fund applications and one BCF application many received far in excess of that number. One municipality received hundreds of approvals for millions of dollars. The total number of approved projects for the northern region was small in comparison to the number of approvals and the total value of approved projects for southern Ontario.

The Municipality of East Ferris has always managed its finances in a very responsible manner. However, we have been told the following on many occasions over the past few years:

1. Your reserves are too high, use them for infrastructure projects;
2. You have never borrowed, borrow for infrastructure projects; and
3. Your residents have a high income level, raise taxes for infrastructure projects.

Premier Wynne, we have been doing all that has been asked of us by the Province and more yet we continue to be shut out of infrastructure funding. The Municipality has:

1. Reduced our reserves by approximately 41% over the past five years by using the monies for various infrastructure projects;
2. Changed from the pay as you go system of budgeting and borrowed last year for the first time ever (\$1.2 million) for roads projects which we had to complete; and
3. Raised our taxes at a level comparable to or greater than the cost of living for each of the past five years.

We have also developed a long term economic development strategy, a facilities master plan, a reserve funds policy and we are nearing the completion of our long term capital asset management plan.

We are trying our best to be creative and innovative in our approach to our planning in an attempt to become financially healthier and move towards greater sustainability in the future. Now we can say that we, together with AMO and most of the other municipalities, are not even being listened to.

We, like many other municipalities, are also being faced with continuing decreases in our funding through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF); and, significant increases in our policing (OPP) costs. We are also facing the high costs associated with our share of the future redevelopment of the Cassellholme East Nipissing District Home for the Aged (\$60 million dollar project).

We have been and continue to ask for a source of sustainable infrastructure funding for all municipalities. We fully understand that many municipalities, including East Ferris, will have significant infrastructure projects whether they be roads, bridges, water or sewer and that there needs to be monies set aside for these larger projects as well.

AMO has recommended a fair and equitable method to distribute the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund and it or some similar formula should be considered.

Premier Wynne, we are in a very difficult situation as are most small rural communities in this Province.

We are respectfully requesting the following:

1. that this announcement be rescinded and that either the method advanced by AMO to distribute funds through the program or something comparable to it be implemented instead; and
2. to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss options and opportunities for the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Original signed

Mayor Bill Vrebosch, Municipality of East Ferris

Cc. Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs
Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Transportation
AMO and all Municipalities
OGRA
Jay Aspin, MP Nipissing Temiskaming
Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing
All residents of the Municipality of East Ferris



RECEIVED
DEC 18 2013
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Centre Wellington News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Township of Centre Wellington announces its 2014 strategically aligned capital budget

ELORA, ONTARIO December 18, 2013 – The Township of Centre Wellington is pleased to announce its 2014 capital budget. The 2014 capital budget is a continuation of the Corporation's strategic commitment to: funding, infrastructure, growth strategy, lifestyle services, communications and human capital in the Township of Centre Wellington.

Centre Wellington Council approved the 2014 capital budget of \$ 11,916,000 aligned with this strategic focus. The capital budget typically involves significant expenditure in the acquisition, construction or improvements in land, buildings, engineering structures, or machinery and equipment used to provide municipal services with a benefit lasting beyond one year. It also includes one-time project costs in excess of \$5,000 that may be operating in nature, such as maintenance items or studies that would cause significant fluctuations in the tax rate if they were included in the operating budget.

The significant benefit to the approval of the 2014 capital budget before the end of the 2013-year is the ability to begin the tender process in the first quarter of the year potentially realizing more competitive pricing for these projects. The Township CAO, Andy Goldie, as well as Township Managing Directors, spent a significant amount of time prioritizing capital projects for a 10-year capital forecast with particular attention paid to years 2015 and 2016.

The second component of setting the budget for 2014 is the operating budget which Council and staff will be working through in December and January to complete this work.

The Township of Centre Wellington has a population of 28,000 and covers an area of 400 square kilometres. In terms of population, the Township is in the top 15% of single and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario.

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