

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 26, 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN (EMP) WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE PRESENTATION BY DPRA INC.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received;
2. The comments of the Environment Committee be taken into account in finalizing the Work Plan and Timeline;
3. The Work Plan and Timeline be presented to a Committee of the Whole (Working Session) in January of 2008; and
4. Staff provide updates on the status of the Environmental Master Plan study at each Environment Committee meeting throughout the duration of the project.

Economic Impact

Direction to proceed with the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan has been obtained and was included in the 2007 Capital Budget.

Communications Plan

The overall communications plan for the Environmental Master Plan will be developed as part of the Growth Management Communication Strategy, which will also encompass the Official Plan Review and the Master Plan studies. The will include the branding of the process, the development of websites and strategies for engaging the public. This will be reported on early in the New Year.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Work Plan and Timeline for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan to the Environment Committee for its comment and input; and to obtain direction to present the Work Plan and Timeline to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) in the New Year.

Background – Analysis and Options

On September 24, 2007 the Environment Committee approved the retention of the consulting team led by DPRA Inc. to prepare the City's Environmental Master Plan. This decision was ratified by Council on October 9, 2007.

The consultant, in discussion with Staff, has prepared a draft work plan and timeline to guide the preparation of the EMP. The consultant is now in a position to present the draft to the Environment Committee. The purpose of the presentation is to describe, among other things:

- The methodology to be followed in developing the plan;
- The major milestones and their timing;
- The approach being taken to consultation with Council, staff, stakeholders and the public; and
- The reporting procedure to keep the Environment Committee/Council updated.

Consultation will be a key feature of the work plan. The recommended elements include:

- Interviews with Councillors;
- Interviews with Staff;
- The creation of a Stakeholders' Group (From organizations representing a spectrum of social, economic and environmental interests) ;
- A Technical Advisory Committee (Staff and External Agencies);
- Engaging the general public.

The conceptual structure of the Stakeholders' Group is identified in the presentation. Subject to concurrence with the suggested approach, the membership of the group will be finalized and the Environment Committee will be updated on its composition in January.

The Technical Advisory Committee will be composed of City Staff from a range of Commissions, external government agencies (e.g. the Region of York) and utilities (e.g. PowerStream). This will also be updated in January.

The presentation does not provide details on the process that will be used to engage the general public. As noted, these consultation measures will be coordinated with the Growth Management communications strategy, which will be the subject of a report to Council early in the New Year. More detail will emerge as this part of the overall strategy evolves. It is expected that the consultation process for the broader public will commence in April of 2008.

Completion of the EMP, to final approval by Council, is programmed for October – November of 2008.

Background research is now underway. The purpose of the presentation is to introduce the draft work plan and timeline to the Environment Committee. It will give the Committee an opportunity to obtain any required clarifications about the scope of the study and the methodology that will be used. It is also an opportunity for the Environment Committee to provide its input and advice prior to the study proceeding.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved. It supports the objective of Ensuring the City-wide protection of the Environment (S. 4.4); and ensuring that municipal operations are undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner (S 4.4.4).

Regional Impact

N/A

Conclusion

The work plan and timeline will provide the blueprint for the preparation of the EMP. It is important at this stage of the project's development that the Environment Committee is provided with this information, along with the opportunity to obtain clarification and provide input. To complete the reporting process, it is also recommended that the EMP work plan and timeline be presented to the Committee of the Whole at a Working Session for its information and comment early in the New Year.

Staff will be providing regular status updates on the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan at each Environment Committee meeting over the duration of the study.

Therefore, it is recommended that the recommendations of this report be approved.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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