

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – JANUARY 29, 2008**

### **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 for information purposes.

#### **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 a website and strategies for engaging the public. This will be reported on later this year.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the Work Plan and Timeline for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan to Committee of the Whole for its information and comment.

#### **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.

On November 26, 2007 the Environment Committee received a presentation by DPRA Inc. which outlined the work plan and timeline for the preparation of the EMP. In addition, it was directed that the work plan and timeline be presented to a Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting in January of 2008. These recommendations were ratified by Council on December 10, 2007.

The purpose of the presentation is to describe, among other things:

- The methodology to be followed in developing the EMP;
- 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.

Obtaining comment is a key feature of the work plan. The primary elements include:

#### a) **Council and Staff Consultation**

The consulting team has initiated an internal interview program with Councillors and staff. The interviews with staff from the City Commissions started on January 7, 2008. The

purpose of the interviews is to obtain a fuller understanding of the environmental issues, challenges and opportunities facing the City. Topics of discussion included: Defining sustainability from a Vaughan perspective; establishing an environmental ethic for the City; identification of the most important environmental challenges facing the City; areas where the City is providing leadership and future directions.

Interviews with individual Councillors commenced during the week of January 21, 2008. The first Councillors to be interviewed are the members of the Environment Committee. It was decided to delay the interviews with the Councillors who are not members of the Environment Committee until they had the benefit of the consultant's presentation at this Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting. Their interviews will start after this Committee meeting. The objective is to complete the initial internal interview process by Friday, February 8, 2008. Follow-up on matters raised during the interviews will continue thereafter.

b) The Stakeholders' Committee

The Stakeholders' Committee will be composed of people from a variety of fields or sectors of society that have expertise and/or an interest in environmental/sustainability issues and policies. This will allow them to share ideas and provide the City with their views and input on the preparation of the EMP. Currently, the membership is being finalized in anticipation of the first of three meetings that are projected for this committee. A membership in the range of twenty to twenty-five is being planned, representing the following sectors of society.

- The Business Community;
- Youth and Seniors;
- Education;
- Utility Providers;
- Environmental Organizations;
- Community and Health Services.

The first meeting is targeted for the latter part of February or early March. Follow-up meetings would take place in the April – June timeframe, with the final meeting occurring in the early fall.

c) The Public Consultation Process

The public consultation process for the Environmental Master Plan will be undertaken as part of the Growth Management Communications Strategy, which is currently under development. This will include the public consultation processes for both the EMP and the Official Plan Review. From the perspective of the Environmental Master Plan, the process will focus on obtaining the participation of the general public and ratepayer organizations and securing their input into the preparation of the EMP. This information will complement the input that has been obtained from staff and Council, the Stakeholders' Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee.

The Growth Management communications program will include a branding strategy, website development and the identification of public consultation measures designed to improve participation levels and promote quality comment and input. It will proceed through the Senior Management Team to Committee of Whole and Council for approval, prior to its implementation. It is expected that the consultation process will commence in March of 2008. It will be the objective to complete the majority of the public consultation process for the EMP by the end of June 2008.

d) The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

A Technical Advisory Committee is being formed. Given the relationship between the Official Plan Review and the Environmental Master Plan, staff is working to create a flexible Committee that can serve both projects. The TAC will focus on technical issues with a governmental/regulatory/policy focus. The core of the TAC will be composed of City Staff, representatives from a number of departments from the Region of York, technical agencies like the TRCA and utilities. TAC members will provide input to the City on the policies and programs of their respective organizations and any technical constraints that may affect policy development for both the EMP and the new Official Plan. The first meeting of the Committee is being scheduled.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

This report is consistent with the City's objective of leading and supporting environmental sustainability through the development and implementation of an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Growth Management Strategy 2031.

**Regional Implications**

Regional Staff will be involved in the consultation program primarily through the Technical Advisory Committee.

**Conclusion**

It is recommended that this report and the presentation by DPRA Inc. be received for information purposes.

**Attachments**

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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