

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 6, 2008

DONGARA-COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella, in consultation with Ms Betty Disero, Business Development officer for Dongara, recommends adoption of the attached terms of reference for a non-statutory advisory committee, to be titled the Dongara-Community Liaison Committee.

Economic Impact

Nil.

Communication Plan

The Corporate Communications Department, in consultation with Dongara, will issue a media release, to inform the public of the creation of the liaison committee.

Purpose

To create a forum for the discussion and resolution of any concerns arising from the operation of the pelletization plant recently opened by Dongara, at the intersection of Highways 27 and 407 and to assist in the promotion of the technology to other jurisdictions.

Background – Analysis and Options

The collection and disposal of waste is one of the principal responsibilities of local governments in Ontario, and indeed across Canada and United States. In the so-called 905 portion of the Greater Toronto Area, the collection of waste is the responsibility of lower tier municipalities, while its disposal is that of the regional municipalities. Thus, while there is a contractual relationship between the Region of York and Dongara, its location is within the boundaries of the City of Vaughan, which in turn will be the principal supplier of the waste going into the plant. The plant will convert non-recyclable, non-hazardous, and non-compostable waste into pellets that can be used as fuel, thereby reducing the need for additional landfill capacity. This represents a significant leap in waste disposal technology.

Nevertheless, any new technology, no matter how sound, can prompt concerns as to its efficacy, per se, and its impact, if any, on neighboring land uses.

With the foregoing in mind, this recommendation contemplates a means by which any concerns that arise over the operation of the Dongara facility can be addressed in a forum in which all interested parties can participate: the City of Vaughan and the Region of York, through elected representatives; Dongara itself; as well as local businesses and local residents.

Regional Implications

While the Region of York is party to a contract for waste processing with Dongara, the proposed liaison committee is intended to deal with any impacts of the plants operation on the immediately adjacent committee. The inclusion of a regional councillor in the membership of the committee will ensure any concerns touching on the Region of York's interests with respect to the plant can be effectively communicated to the region.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 20/20

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

A liaison committee populated by representatives of the City of Vaughan, the Region of York, Dongara, local businesses, and local residents will provide a forum for the resolution of any concerns arising from the operation of this facility.

Attachments

Terms of Reference, Dongara-Community Liaison Committee

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella, FRSA

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA
Councillor – Ward 2

Dongara-Community Liaison Committee

Terms of Reference

Status: Non-statutory advisory committee

Goal: To ensure there is little or no impact to the host community, in order to maximize the positive impact of the facility on the environment.

Objectives:

(1) to facilitate on-going communication and information exchange between the City of Vaughan, Dongara, local businesses, and local residential communities;

(2) to address issues of concern;

(3) to promote the technology employed by Dongara, in order to reduce the amount of waste generated in other jurisdictions that is destined for landfill sites.

Membership: The committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the councillor for the ward in which the Dongara plant is located, who shall serve as co-chair

(2) a regional councillor from the City of Vaughan

(3) a representative of Dongara, who shall serve as co-chair

(4) a representative of Dongara with appropriate technical expertise

(5) the representative of the nearest ratepayers' association

(6) a representative of a local business

(7) the mayor, ex-officio

Meetings: At the call of either of the co-chairs

Support: The committee shall keep its own minutes, copies of which will be filed with the Clerks Department, once approved. Staff of relevant departments---Engineering and Public Works, Planning, Legal, etc.---are authorized to attend, when invited to do so by either chair.