

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – JANUARY 21, 2008

STATUS UPDATE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN

Recommendation

The City Manager, in consultation with the Senior Management Team, recommends that:

1. This report in respect of the status of the Environmental Master Plan study be received for information purposes.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts resulting from the receipt of this report. All activities described herein have been accounted for in the project budget for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan.

Communications Plan

Not applicable to this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environment Committee with an update on the work that has been undertaken in the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan since the last Committee meeting and on the work that is expected to be undertaken over the next month.

Background – Analysis and Options

Previous Action

On November 26, 2007 the Environment Committee received a presentation by the project consultant (DPRA Inc.), which outlined the work plan and timeline (Attachment No. 1) for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan. 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; and that staff provide updates on the status of the Environmental Master Plan study at each Environment Committee meeting throughout the duration of the project. These recommendations were ratified by Council on December 10, 2007. This report is in response to the requirement for a status update at each Committee meeting.

Summary of Activities Undertaken and Planned

a) Staff and Council Consultation

The consulting team has initiated the internal interview program in accordance with the work plan. This initially involves interviews with staff and Councillors. The interviews with staff from the City Commissions started on January 7, 2008. The purpose of the interviews was 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 will commence during the week of January 21, 2008. The first Councillors to be interviewed will be the members of the Environment Committee. In accordance with the Council direction of December 10, 2007 DPRA Inc. will be presenting the EMP Work Plan and Timeline to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) on January 29. 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. The interviews with the remaining members of Council will start immediately thereafter. 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) Other Consultation Measures

The work plan identifies three additional components of the consultation process. They include the creation of a Stakeholders' Committee, outreach to ratepayers and the general public and a Technical Advisory Committee. All three are in the start-up or planning phases as discussed below.

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 April – June timeframe, with the final meeting taking place in the early fall.

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 the 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. The plan is under development. 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.

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 single 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

Work is proceeding consistent with the approved timeline. The consultation processes will play an important role in shaping the EMP's policies and prioritizing the recommended actions. A full report to the Environment Committee of the outcome of the work conducted in the first quarter of 2008 remains targeted for the end of March. This report will include a draft of the City's definition of sustainability and the environmental ethic for the Environment Committee's consideration. Subject to comment and direction, this material will be subject to further public review in the second quarter of 2008.

Therefore, it is recommended that this report be received for information purposes.

Attachments

1. Environmental Master Plan: Work Plan and Timeline (From November 26, 2007)

Report prepared by:

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy, ext. 8211

Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeAngelis
City Manager

Environmental Master Plan - Draft Work Plan

Phase	Time frame	Tasks	Outcomes
Phase I: Establishing the EMP Planning Process	October to December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct background research Develop consultation and communication program Work with staff/OP Review consultants on public portion of the consultation process Present to Senior Management Team – November 14 Present to Environment Committee on November 26 (with direction to proceed to a presentation to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) in January) Define TAC membership Define stakeholder group membership Plan Council/staff interviews and engagement process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Consultation and communication program ⇒ A strong work program and consultation framework for the EMP
	Jan. to March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with background research Presentation to Committee of the Whole Working Session; Initiate meetings with the TAC Initiate and complete interviews with Councillors and SMT/Staff Begin stakeholder engagement process Continue to plan and coordinate public and community engagement process with staff and OP Review team Report on outcomes in March 2008 to SMT, Environment Committee, Committee of the Whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Definition of sustainability ⇒ Vision statement, guiding principles and ethics
Phase II: Developing a Vision, Goals and Principles	April to June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate community engagement process in concert with OP Review Continue TAC meetings and stakeholder engagement Begin drafting of EMP Report on outcomes in June 2008 to: SMT, Environment Committee, Committee of the Whole Working Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Ideas for goals, objectives and actions ⇒ Draft EMP
Phase III: Action Planning and Developing Performance Measures	July to August 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize draft of EMP Submit draft to the following for review and comment in August 2008: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project team Technical Advisory Committee Affected consultants (e.g. OP Review) Revise draft on the basis of comments Present revised draft to SMT for review and comment (mid to late August) Obtain direction to submit to the Environment Committee and Committee of the Whole, prior to going back to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Draft EMP (with comments) ⇒ Final draft EMP for public review
Phase IV: Developing and Finalizing the EMP		September to November 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present revised draft to the Environment Committee and Committee of the Whole to obtain comment and direction to obtain public comment (September 2008) Obtain comment from the stakeholders' group, with appropriate commenting window Hold final community open house with appropriate commenting window Receive and analyze comments Prepare report to Environment Committee recommending approval with any changes resulting from the comments Report to Committee of the Whole recommending approval late October 2008