

**Date:** Saturday, June 12, 2004

**Present: Municipality:** Reeve Eleanor Harrison  
Deputy-Reeve Tom Gardner  
Councillor Kerry Lock  
Councillor Jim Hicks  
Councillor Diane Griffin  
Administrator/Clerk, Gerald Bain

**SGS Lakefield Research Limited (SGS):** Mike Lord, Project Manager  
Heather Watson, Senior Environmental Planner  
Peggy Murphy, Environmental Technologist

**Grace and Associates Inc. (GAI):** Thomas Grace

**Minute Taker:** Peggy Murphy

**Re: Public Information Centre, June 12, 2004**

**Township of Algonquin Highlands**

**Municipal Class Environmental Assessment**

**To consider alternatives for handling hauled sewage.**

**SGS Lakefield Research Reference No. 10279-005**

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## *Purpose of Meeting*

This meeting was intended as an opportunity for the public to review and discuss alternatives for handling hauled sewage.

## Meeting Minutes

The meeting commenced at 10:00am at The Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall.

Reeve Harrison (RH) welcomed everyone, introduced Members of Council for the Township of Algonquin Highlands (TAH), Representatives of SGS Lakefield Research Limited and Grace and Associates Inc.

Mike Lord (ML) welcomed everyone and provided some background to the current project. He proceeded with a brief PowerPoint presentation including a description of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Act, Class



Environmental Assessments and the Schedule C Class EA Process. The applicable work to date, the work plan and proposed schedule were laid out.

Heather Watson (HW) continued with the PowerPoint Presentation. She described the Identification of Alternatives and Alternative Solutions A through E. HW requested input from the public in regards to the location of additional alternative sites. In particular a location on the Hindon access Rd. that was mentioned in correspondence by a number of people, needs clarification. Information was provided regarding the next steps to be taken in the Class EA Process including, evaluation of the alternatives, and the design options.

A ten minute break was called by RH.

ML made a brief clarification of a few points regarding the Pre Class EA Process and Post Class EA Process

Heather Ross (HR), The Executive Chair of Environment Haliburton read a number of questions to the panel. She also made a request that an advisory committee be established to work with the TAH and SGS. ML agreed that an advisory committee is a good idea and that if Ms Ross could forward the questions to him he would see that they were all answered accordingly. *(Following the meeting the written submission was supplied to SGS LR).*

Vern Zimmerman (VZ) asked why Pine Springs is the best site. ML pointed out that at this time Pine Springs has not been identified as the best site.

Wayne Black (WB), President of Kushog Lake Property Owners Association, asked if only Township owned properties were being investigated as potential alternative sites. RH responded that yes this would be the prudent thing to do although if none of the TAH owned properties had potential consideration would be given to other properties.

Sandy McKay (SM) stated that in his opinion, the Township was concerned only with monetary values and asked if the cost is the over riding factor in the decision-making. RH stated that this is not the case and that the public is welcome to provide a list of non-municipally owned sites.

ML expanded on the comments of RH in that a first cut of sites would include municipally owned properties and if none are potential sites, the search would then expand. HW added that if anyone is aware of a potential site location they should contact SGS with information on the property.

John Archer (JA) asked what levels of investigation are to be conducted at Pine Spring that might indicate whether this was a preferred site. HW responded that soil testing, site visits, mapping, contact with adjacent land owners and a review of existing vegetation are a few of the steps that would be taken.

Voula Moran (VM) of Kushog Lake asked what information is currently available for each alternative site so that she is able to make an educated choice of the preferred site. ML responded that once a screening process for the sites is in place which would include such things as setbacks, soil sampling etc. the information would be passed on to the public. HW added that anyone completing the survey should answer any questions they can with whatever range of information is now available to them. VM asked what methods would be best for communicating with SGS and keeping informed of the process. HW provided a number of alternatives including e-mail and the Township web site. She also indicated that correspondence from the municipality is available to anyone who requests it on the back page of the survey.

Ted Robinson (TR) stated that he is concerned about the way that alternative sites are being chosen. He disagrees with RH about municipally owned sites being first choice alternative sites. HW responded that a choice of sites is not the only alternative and that a site may not be the preferred alternative at all.

Dave Kennedy (DK) stated that he would like to know the pros and cons of the options which do not include a site choice. HW gave some information about the Dorset and Minden treatment facilities as well as the possibility of a county-wide approach. She noted that a pilot project had taken place in Grey County.

Brian Pearce (BP) asked about his understanding of the Environmental Assessment and the current Phase that is now taking place. ML responded that Mr. Pearce's understanding was correct. BP asked how he could be certain that survey information from the public would be included in the EA Process. ML described the ESR and the appendix that includes the surveys. BP asked if his comments on the survey would end up in the matrix of site information. ML responded that, yes it could. BP asked if a date had been set when the preferred site selection would be complete. ML said that a date had not been set since the final selection set had yet to be published. BP asked who could fill in a survey. ML responded that any interested person could.

Bob Montgomery (BM) asked what would be the cost for a lagoon. TG responded that the estimated cost is \$100,000, which includes construction, the lining and monitoring for two lagoons. BM asked what is the cost of utilizing a treatment facility. TG indicated that at this time the Minden treatment facility is almost at full capacity therefore costs for this option may include expanding the facility.

A gentleman asked who makes the final decision regarding the preferred alternative. ML responded that a ranking is completed for each alternative, which includes technical information as well as public input.

Dave Talbot (DT) asked that a council member respond to his question. He wondered why the Township representatives would consider sending hauled sewage out of the municipality. Deputy Reeve Tom Gardner responded that the Pine Springs site is actually owned by TAH. DT made the comment that sewage produced in the Township should remain in the Township.



Tom Bermer asked what the cost has been for the services of SGS and GAI. CAO Gerald Bain provided his estimated cost of \$80,000 for services once the process is complete and that the cost of a lagoon would be an additional \$100,000.

WB asked if there has been any interest from other municipalities to join forces in finding a solution to the problem of hauled septage. RH replied that waste management has not been dealt with in depth at the county level. She added that the large geographic area may present problems to finding a solution this way. She described the trench method being reviewed in the Township of Highlands East. WB asked if any lobbying of the province had been attempted. RH replied "No, not from Haliburton County".

There was a question from the floor regarding removal of phosphates and nitrates released from septage. TG responded that samples are taken at the property boundary to ensure compliance with MOE regulations and that all results meet reasonable use guidelines.

Leola Wheeler (LW) asked for an explanation of a lagoon and how it works. TG described a lagoon as a hole in the ground, like a bathtub, with an impervious liner. The septage is first emptied into a trash tank, which is like a large septic tank. This settles out the sludge and the remainder is discharged into the lagoon. TG added that the lagoon and trash tank must first be designed and engineered.

There was general discussion regarding the disposal of sludge and polished effluent and the safety of this. TG indicated that final disposal of polished effluent in landfills is the accepted disposal method of MOE.

VZ expressed concerns with the quantities of nitrate reported in the 2003 Annual Monitoring Report for the Pine Springs Waste Disposal Site. TG provided information on the safe drinking water level, which at 10mg/L is well above the current level of .069m/L indicated by Mr. Zimmerman.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Hawk Lake Site and the fact that it had been turned down as an alternative site 1.5 years ago but does still remain as an option. TG provided information on the background of this site. He described a private endeavor that was originally undertaken but was turned down due to planning issues.

VZ asked if the Maple Lake site had not been removed from the list of alternatives sites and RH replied that the site does remain on the list.

JA commented that the Township needs a long-term solution and he questioned the life span of a lagoon. ML replied that a lagoon should last in perpetuity.



A question was asked regarding time considerations and if this process was being considered in terms of the future. ML replied that this will not be a bandage solution. He added that we are looking for a solution for final long-term disposal.

John Nelson raised concerns about a stream, which runs through his property and may be downstream of the Pine Springs Site.

Councilor Jim Hicks asked if it is possible to put a treatment plant in an area that is not near a water body. TG replied that this depends on the volumes involved. He described the only two options, which are surface water and subsurface water disposal. The councilor also asked if private property could be chosen as an alternative site. ML replied yes it could, however only with the owner's permission.

RH asked if anyone present at the meeting had visited a lagoon site. A few hands were raised.

SM advised everyone that they should include their mailing address on the sign in sheet in order to receive future correspondence from the Township regarding this project.

Someone asked how many people would support a tax increase for the construction of a sewage treatment facility. A few hands were raised.

Scott McKay (ScM) asked if stakeholders could be included in a steering committee. ML responded that the suggestion of an advisory committee brought up by Heather Ross was a good one and that it would be advisable to include stakeholders.

LW raised concerns about the dumping of septage in winter when the lagoons are frozen. ML replied that septage is first dumped into the tanks. The ice in the lagoon will then rise during the winter months as the lagoon fills from below. LW questioned which contractor would be constructing the lagoon. RH responded that the municipality is not at that point yet.

There was a general discussion regarding wetlands and offsets from these.

HR asked if a 20 or 30 year time frame had been used to complete a cost benefit analysis she also wondered if the site selection criteria met with MOE requirements and if a scoped EA was required. ML stated that no cost benefit analysis would be done and there was no set of criteria from the MOE for the site selection process nor was there a scoped EA.

There was discussion regarding property values near sewage treatment facilities. ML and WB both gave information that indicates property values are not affected by such facilities.



VZ made a comment that he did not want any facility on Kushog Lake. Others indicated their agreement

At 2:00 p.m., RH announced that the public open house was adjourned. She invited the public to speak individually to TAH, SGS and GAI representatives.