

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2004

Present: Municipality: Reeve Eleanor Harrison
Deputy-Reeve Tom Gardner
Councillor Kerry Lock
Councillor Diane Griffin

SGS Lakefield Research Limited (SGS):

Heather Watson, Senior Environmental Planner
Peggy Murphy, Project Technologist

Grace and Associates Inc. (GAI): Thomas Grace

Regrets: Councillor Jim Hicks

Minute Taker: Peggy Murphy

Re: **Public Information Centre, August 14, 2004**

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

To consider alternatives for handling hauled sewage.

SGS Lakefield Research Reference No. 10279-005

Purpose of Meeting

This meeting was third in a series of public information meetings for the Class Environmental Assessment for the Township of Algonquin Highlands. The purpose of the Class EA is to evaluate the impact of developing a hauled sewage management system for the municipality. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Preferred Alternative Solutions to the Public and to receive Public comment regarding the preferred alternatives.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting commenced at 10:00am at the Dorset Recreation Centre

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

Bill Clarke expressed concern regarding the possibility of a conflict of interest for SGS and GAI. He questioned whether the choice of the Do Nothing Alternative would result in less work for SGS and GAI.



Thomas Grace (TG) indicated that Thomas Grace and Associates does not provide design-build services and therefore the issue of conflict of interest should not be a concern.

HW clarified the roll of SGS and TG in the Environmental Assessment Process and indicated that this could not be considered a conflict of interest.

Reeve Harrison stated that no conflict of interest was occurring and that choosing the Do Nothing Alternative would have no effect on what SGS and GAI get paid. She then asked that the meeting continue.

Heather Watson (HW) welcomed everyone and provided a brief introduction and background information for the project. The roll of public consultation in the Class Environmental Assessment Process was described, as well as the key principals of the Class Environmental Assessment and Phases of the Schedule C – Class EA Process. HW explained Phase 1 - Documentation of the Problem and Phase 2 - The Identification of Preferred Alternatives. The presentation continued with the description of the Next Steps and Preferred Alternatives A and B, public concerns to be addressed, the next steps in the Class EA Process Design Options, final steps and the public's roll in the process. Preferred Alternative (Option) "A" is construction of a transfer facility haulage to the Centre for Alternative Wastewater Treatment at Fleming College during the upcoming winter season. This is a short-term approach which can provide valuable data to the municipality about the volumes and characteristics of hauled sewage produced within the municipality. Preferred Alternative (Option) "B" is the construction of a hauled sewage management facility by and for the municipality.

Thomas Grace (TG) commented briefly on the many options that are available to the municipality including a complete wastewater treatment package plant, a lagoon system, or constructed wetlands. He stated that the most suitable facility should be located on the most appropriate site.

Sandy McKay (SM) asked for more information regarding constructed wetlands.

TG stated that a trash tank is installed and the liquid discharge from this is filtered through beds of different types of plants that absorb pollutants,

Milt Shepherd asked how clean the water will be at the end of the process.

TG described a constructed wetland in Mississippi where the water at the end of the process is drinkable. He also described another constructed wetland run by **The Body Shop™** where the water at the end of the process could be reused immediately.

A Gentleman asked what becomes of the sludge taken from the bottom of the trash tank.

TG replied that the sludge is dried and sent to approved waste disposal sites (landfills).

SM stated that he thought this was not treated sewage.

TG replied that the Ministry of the Environment considers this as treated sewage and that testing and monitoring of the sludge is completed.

SM said he was concerned about the high concentrations due to the high volume of septage.

TG replied that regardless of volumes the percentages of pollutants is what is considered important. The low industrial base results in low rates of industrial contaminants

HW added that landfill sites are designed to take this waste.

A Gentleman said that he is concerned with volumes and described a septic system

TG replied that nothing is done without MOE approval and that design and operations must follow the strict conditions for a Certificate of Approval.

A gentleman described the lagoon system in Bracebridge and noted that it is not an unpleasant site to visit.

Elaine Burbidge asked for a description of the facility that would be used for transfer in septage

TG described transfer tanks as precast concrete tanks.

Bill Clarke stated that he thought Alternative A (short-term haulage to the CAWT is not a complete alternative.

HW replied that Alternative A is a short term solution that would provide answers and data for the long term solution.

BC asked if the tank was temporary or could it be used for the long term solution.

BC was concerned that a design for a facility was moving forward at present.

RH stated that the municipality had hired SGS Lakefield to find out what the municipality should be moving forward with, what will work best for the municipality and its residents, and what type of design might be appropriate.

Ted Burbidge asked if there was any site out in the middle of nowhere that could be used for a hauled septage facility.



HW responded that one problem with sites that are out in the middle of nowhere is the lack of availability of hydro power which is needed for most types of facilities.

RH added that another problem would be that the land would have to be purchased and that this could be a long process.

BC asked if Crown Property might be available.

RH responded that purchasing Crown Property can be difficult and time-consuming.

Gayle McKay (GM) asked if a solution was necessary before the coming winter.

HW responded that this would be best but not necessarily possible and also that haulers were available for this winter.

GM asked when the next presentation to council would be.

HW responded that she hoped the draft report would be complete by this fall.

GM asked when the Fleming facility would be available to accept septage,

HW replied that facility should be available this fall and that approvals for a transfer station are not the same as for a treatment facility and should be quicker to get.

Elaine Burbidge asked about the number of trucks that would be used for hauling.

HW replied this is definitely a concern and will be a consideration as the alternatives are evaluated. She said that the number of trucks has not been fully established.

Wayne Black (WB) asked if the decision is to go ahead with Alternative A, would this information be used for Alternative B.

HW answered that information will not be lost.

WB asked if the transfer station could be dismantled.

HW answered that dismantling is a possibility.

Milt Shepherd asked how many acres were necessary for a facility and what other information could be given to him for each site so that he can comment more specifically.



HW replied that an overall opinion is requested from the public, the consultants will look at the other information such as site area, setbacks, zoning, designations, water table elevations etc.

A gentleman asked why were there test pits a Hawk Lake.

HW replied that these had nothing to do with the current process and were probably part of the monitoring of the existing landfill.

Heather Ross asked what would be in the Environmental Assessment Report.

HW replied that this depended on the fine-tuning of the alternatives, and further public input but it would be presented as a complete documentation of the Class EA process, undertaken by the municipality.

Ken Jackson asked if Alternative A could be a final alternative.

HW answered that this is not possible since the project at the Fleming campus is a pilot project only and the City of Kawartha Lakes (former Town of Lindsay) is not prepared to accept septage for an extended period of time.

Ken Jackson asked how many other municipalities are having the same problem.

TG answered that many municipalities in Ontario are faced with the issue of septage management.

RH added that The Township of Algonquin Highlands is the only township in Haliburton County that does not have a treatment facility.

Bob Phillips asked if the Ministry of the Environment had visited all of the alternative sites.

TG replied, to the best of his knowledge, this was not the case.

HW added that it was because of the strong public response to having Pine Springs as an alternative site and the need for approval under several pieces of legislation, that the MOE visited the Pine Springs waste disposal site.

EB asked why Hawk Lake was back on the list since she thought it had been removed.

RH replied that this was mentioned at the Association Meeting and that the president was made aware of it. She added that it was also mentioned on the web site. No municipal sites have been removed from the assessment process – all will be evaluated.



Paul Morgan asked who is responsible for monitoring of the site and voiced concerns over current conditions at the Hawk Lake Waste Disposal Site.

HW responded that part of the Class EA Report would include recommendations regarding implementation and monitoring, as required for the alternative and design option selected.

Steve???

Asked if there would be another meeting with more technical information.

HW responded yes, hopefully by Thanksgiving. She advised ratepayers to watch the web site and papers for more information regarding this.

Steve (?) asked if the facility would handle only septage from the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

RH answered yes the Certificate of Approval would include only septage waste from the Township of Algonquin Highlands

SM asked if an advisory committee had been formed.

RH said no, the Council made the decision not to go forward with an advisory committee and that the public, particularly those in attendance at meetings, serves as a direct advisory committee. Council did not want to limit public input, as could occur in the case of an advisory committee.

SM asked about the weighting for the ranking scheme on the matrix specifically for the environmental issues.

HW indicated that more information would be available at the next meeting regarding this.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.