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REPLACEMENT OF MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CREDIT VALLEY, TORONTO REGION AND CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO (CTC) REGION SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED BY THE *CLEAN WATER ACT*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated January 18, 2012, from the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council appoint Don Goodyear as the municipal representative for York Region and its constituent local municipalities within the source protection area on the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Region Source Protection Committee.
2. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities of King Township, Town of Markham, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan, Town of Aurora and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, and the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Region Source Protection Authorities.
3. Regional Council request that the local municipalities of King Township, Town of Markham, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan, Town of Aurora and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, endorse the appointment of Don Goodyear as the applicable municipal representative on the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Region Source Protection Committee by March 31, 2012.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests Regional Council's endorsement for replacement of the municipal representative for York Region and its constituent local municipalities within the source protection area on the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Region Source Protection Committee, as requested by the Source Protection Authority, in order to comply with the *Clean Water Act*.

3. BACKGROUND

Protecting water at the source is a provincially mandated requirement for delivery of safe drinking water

Following the Walkerton tragedy, the Province created the *Clean Water Act* to set out a framework of requirements for development of source protection plans by Source Protection Committees by August 2012. The plans will outline requirements for municipalities and other agencies to protect drinking water at the source (as previously reported to Regional Council in reports to the Environmental Services Committee February 9, 2011 and November 9, 2011). Source Protection Committees are a group of appointed representatives from municipalities, agricultural, public, golf courses, aggregate and other industries, and are responsible for delivery of key components of source protection plans that are approaching final stages of preparation as prescribed under the *Clean Water Act*. Once complete, Source Protection Plans will be administered by the Conservation Authorities with specific regulatory obligations to York Region and local municipalities.

The Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Region Source Protection Committee has twenty-two members, with one-third representation by the municipal sector (seven seats). In consultation with municipalities, the lead Source Protection Authorities appointed the seats to those municipalities responsible under section 11 of the *Ontario Municipal Act 2001* for water protection, treatment and storage (e.g. York Region). It was decided that a Regional representative be appointed to reflect our local and Regional needs.

Nominations for York Region staff to represent the municipal sector for the two Source Protection Committees were first adopted by Regional Council on September 27, 2007 as noted in Clause 6 of Report No. 7 of the Transportation and Works Committee. Source Protection Committee members are expected to attend meetings of the committee, act as liaison by bringing forward concerns in their sector, assist in communicating the committee's work, attend public consultations and make decisions at the committee table.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

York Region municipal representative on the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Region Source Protection Committee needs to be replaced

Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection, Environmental Services, is the endorsed member since 2009. Through Regional Council endorsement, York Region member can vote on Committee resolutions, thereby continuing to voice and represent the Region and local municipalities' interests.

Don Goodyear is recommended to replace Laura McDowell as the York Region and local municipalities' representative for the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee

It is proposed that Don Goodyear, Risk Management Official – Source Water Protection, replace Laura McDowell to continue to represent the interests of York Region and its constituent local municipalities within the source protection area on the Credit Valley, Toronto Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee. As the first appointed Risk Management Official in Ontario, he is also well positioned to keep the local municipalities informed as the work of the Source Protection Committee progresses. His expertise in risk management is particularly useful while the Committee considers policies that have direct impact to our municipalities. In addition, as a full member of the committee, his ability to vote on proposed policies provides an effective use of Regional staff resources. His qualifications meet the prescribed regulations and recommendations by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for municipal representation.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

York Region membership on the Source Protection Committees supports the sustainable infrastructure priority area within the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.

As our communities grow, it is critical that the Region sustain critical infrastructure over the long term. Managing or prohibiting specific land use activities near our drinking water sources, is an effective component of life cycle infrastructure management. The Source Protection Committee provides a vehicle for the Region to advocate effective implementation measures to ensure the Plan is aligned with our water servicing strategy. Measures mandated within the Source Protection Plan, as approved by the Source Protection Committee, will directly protect vital drinking water sources over the long term.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Municipal representation ensures municipal impacts and implementation costs are understood by source protection committee

Other than staffing resources, there is no direct financial implication of York Region to participate on the source protection committee. Through active and thorough involvement and representation, York Region, in cooperation with local staff participation, can ensure that any financial implications are warranted and to the benefit of our communities, the environment and regional sustainability.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The new Source Protection Committee representative will continue to assist with local municipal input on draft Source Protection policies

Regional staff continue to maintain contact and communications with our local municipalities to support the exchange of dialogue regarding the progress of the Source Protection Committees. This regular communication will assist the Source Protection Committee member in addressing any local concerns and comments from all interested parties.

Workshop held in November 2011 with local municipal staff

Public consultation is a key component of the *Clean Water Act*, with specific requirements to liaise with municipalities and other stakeholders. York Region continues to host meetings with the Region's local municipalities on a regular basis to provide an update on ongoing technical studies, available provincial funding and highlight upcoming source protection planning activities. A workshop held on November 23rd, 2011 was well attended by regional and local municipal staff to assist in consolidating our comments on draft source protection policies. Attendees included local municipal departments from Building, Planning, and Public Works. Regional staff also continue to conduct presentations to local Councils to keep them informed on this complex issue. It is imperative that local municipalities remain informed and involved as the Source Protection Plans are finalized.

It is essential that local municipal Councils expeditiously endorse the replacement of Laura McDowell with Don Goodyear by March 31, 2012 to allow for the transfer of full Committee responsibilities. Source Protection Plans are required to be finalized by August 20, 2012 as mandated by the *Clean Water Act*. Over the upcoming months leading to August 20, there will be numerous opportunities to allow for the Region to exercise our vote at critical Committee meetings. Local municipal endorsement will allow for a quick transition and efficient use of resources. Regional staff will offer to provide support to local municipal staff should it be required.

7. CONCLUSION

***Clean Water Act* requires voluntary and mandatory actions to protect municipal drinking water sources**

Protecting drinking water at the source is the first step in providing safe drinking water to our residents. York Region continues to implement Provincial, as well as our own requirements to ensure our sources of drinking water are protected. Although existing actions, including treatment and testing, are standard practice at York Region and continue to demonstrate there has been no impact to source water quality, further actions

are required to ensure our source water remains a protected resource for future generations.

Full understanding of risk management at this stage of development is essential to understand barriers to implementation

Source Protection Committees are currently consulting with those who will have to implement Source Protection Plans, including municipalities, prior to public release of the draft Source Protection Plans in late Winter 2012. It is critical that the Region and local municipalities continue to be represented on the Source Protection Committee to ensure municipal interests are considered as proposed policies are revised over 2012. As the Committee contemplates various tools to manage significant drinking water threats, it is imperative that the Region's representative is well versed in risk management tools to communicate the extent of impact to York Region and its local municipalities.

Local municipal endorsement is requested by March 31, 2012 to meet critical deadlines

To allow for the full transfer of duties, local municipalities are requested to endorse the replacement of Laura McDowell by Don Goodyear by March 31, 2012. Local municipal endorsement will allow for a quick transition and efficient use of resources. As the Committees finalize the Plans, there will be numerous opportunities to allow for the Region to influence the outcome of the Plan through our vote as a municipal representative on the Committee. Regional staff will continue to provide support to local municipal staff on this matter should it be required.

For more information on this report, please contact Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection at 905-830-4444, Ext. 5077.