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LAKE SIMCOE SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY'S REQUEST TO USE ELECTION PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, October 17, 2007, from the General Manager, Water and Wastewater:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council support an election process for the selection of the two Source Protection Committee municipal representatives to be conducted by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.
2. Mayor James Young be appointed York Region's voting representative for the purpose of electing the two Source Protection Committee municipal representatives on December 6, 2007.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Clerks of the six local municipalities within the Lake Simcoe watershed being the Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Aurora, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King.
4. The six local municipalities within the Lake Simcoe watershed, being the Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Aurora, Newmarket, and Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King consider sending a voting representative to the December 6, 2007 meeting to support the York Region nominee.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests Council endorsement for the election process proposed by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and to appoint Mayor James Young as York Region's voting representative.

This election is required because there are only two positions available in the Lake Simcoe municipal grouping of South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region and there are currently five interested municipalities.

3. BACKGROUND

Clause 6 of Report No. 7 of the Transportation and Works Committee adopted by Council on September 27, 2007 recommended two nominees to be York Region's municipal representatives on each of the Source Protection Committees as follows:

1. The Credit Valley, Toronto Region, and Central Lake Ontario Region Source Protection Committee.
2. The of South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee.

At the time of writing the above report, the South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee membership selection process was not fully defined.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has subsequently conducted workshops with the municipalities and has recommended that the South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe watershed be divided into four groupings that reflect the source protection areas identified in the Regulations:

- Black River Source Protection Area (1 seat)
- Lake Simcoe Source Protection Area (2 seats)
- Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Area (2 seats)
- Severn Sound Source Protection Area (2 seats)

York Region is within the Lake Simcoe Source Protection Area which is a total grouping of 20 municipalities.

On September 21, 2007, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority held an information session for the Lake Simcoe grouping to discuss final selection of the two nominees to the Source Protection Committee. At this meeting, there were five municipalities that expressed interest in sitting on the Committee:

- York Region
- Durham Region
- City of Barrie
- Simcoe County
- Oro-Medonte

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority proposed that the final selection be undertaken through an election process. This process has also been adopted by the municipalities in the other three watersheds.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Election Process Proposed by Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has proposed an election process for the selection of the two members allocated to the Lake Simcoe grouping. The process requires that any municipality wishing to participate in voting for the candidates must obtain council approval for their voting representative.

The voting will occur on December 6, 2007, at the Conservation Authority offices where the election process will identify the two preferred candidates out of the current five interested municipalities. York Region's nominee was identified in Clause 6 of Report No. 7 of the Transportation and Works Committee adopted by Council on September 27, 2007.

4.2 Importance of York Region Obtaining a Seat on the Lake Simcoe Grouping of the Source Protection Committee

Participating on the Lake Simcoe grouping of the South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee will be the only opportunity York Region will have to provide direct input to the development of the source protection plans for this watershed. If unsuccessful, York Region and the local municipalities will need to seek membership on other sub-committees and working groups to have their interests and concerns heard, and there is the risk that all pertinent issues will not be addressed adequately in the plans.

4.3 York Region Can Minimize Risk of Inadequate Representation on the Source Protection Committee by Participating in the Election Process

Since there are more interested nominees than available seats, there is a chance that the Region will not be successful in securing a seat. To minimize this risk, it is important that York Region provide a voting representative to protect the Region's interests in this process.

Should the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority not receive adequate endorsement of the election process, they may be required to appoint municipal members directly to the Source Protection Committee without municipal input.

It is therefore important that York Region support the election process to ensure the highest probability for York Region membership on this Committee.

4.4 Recommend Mayor James Young to be the Voting Representative

It is recommended that Mayor James Young be appointed York Region's voting representative for the election process. Mayor Young is currently the Regional representative at large for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board and is well aware of the importance of the source protection plans.

Mayor Young's role will be to represent and vote in support of York Region's nominee for the Source Protection Committee.

4.5 Local Municipalities within the Lake Simcoe Watershed should Consider Sending a Voting Representative

The six local municipalities (Aurora, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville and King) within the Lake Simcoe watershed are also entitled to send a voting representative to the December 6, 2007 meeting. To ensure the greatest representation from York Region municipalities it is suggested that local municipalities send a representative. The voting representative must be approved by the local council by November 30, 2007. The voting representative may be a member of Council or a staff member.

4.6 Relationship to Vision 2026

Participation in Source Protection Committee, and the development of source protection plans, furthers the Region's desire to enhance sustainable development principles in Vision 2026 and the Region's Official Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Source Protection Committee's election process will not have any financial impact on the Region but will demonstrate active support in the Committee member selection process and the importance of source protection planning.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The current York Region nominee for membership on the South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee will be responsible for communicating information to the local municipalities within the watershed. Without Regional representation on the Committee, the Region and the local municipalities will need to seek alternate participation routes to remain engaged with the development of the source protection plans.

7. CONCLUSION

There are seven municipal seats available on the South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee. This South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe watershed has been divided into four areas, and the available seven municipal seats have been divided among these four areas. York Region is member to the Lake Simcoe Source Protection Area which has been assigned two of the seven municipal seats. Of the twenty potential municipalities within this area, five, including York Region, have expressed interest in Source Protection Committee membership.

To resolve this imbalance, The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has proposed an election process be undertaken to select the two members. All municipalities are required to accept this process by resolution from Council by November 30, 2007.

Furthermore, each municipality is to recommend a voting representative for the purpose of the election. The election will take place at the Conservation Authorities offices on December 6, 2007. York Region's voting representative is proposed to be Mayor James Young who will support Ilmar Simanovskis as a representative on the Source Protection Committee as already endorsed by Regional Council on September 27, 2007.

For more information on this report contact Ilmar Simanovskis, extension 5027, Manager Technical Support of the Water and Wastewater Branch in the Transportation and Works Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.