



## **Corporation of the County of Wellington**

### **Solid Waste Services Committee**

#### **Minutes**

January 10, 2023  
County Administration Centre  
Keith Room

**Present:** Warden Andy Lennox  
Councillor Steve O'Neill (Chair)  
Councillor David Anderson  
Councillor Dave Turton  
Councillor Shawn Watters

**Also Present:** Councillor Campbell Cork  
Councillor Jeff Duncan

**Staff:** Jennifer Adams, County Clerk  
Simon Burgess, Operating Budget and Cash Management Supervisor  
Ken DeHart, County Treasurer  
Don Kudo, County Engineer  
Jackie Lee Macchiusi, Capital Budget and Accounting Manager  
Das Soligo, Manager, Solid Waste Services  
Cathy Wiebe, Admin Supervisor Solid Waste Services  
Scott Wilson, CAO

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#### **1. Call to Order**

At 1:00 pm, the Chair called the meeting to order.

#### **2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. 2023 Budget - Solid Waste Services**

1/1/23

**Moved by:** Warden Lennox

**Seconded by:** Councillor Watters

That the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget and 2023-2032 Ten-Year Plan for Solid Waste Services be approved and forwarded to the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee.

**Carried**

**4. Delegation:**

3.1 Gerald Shepetunko – Urban Leaf for Agricultural Application

2/1/23

**Moved by:** Councillor Anderson

**Seconded by:** Warden Lennox

That the Urban Leaf for Agricultural Application presentation by Gerald Shepetunko be received for information.

**Carried**

**5. Solid Waste Services January 2023 Report**

3/1/23

**Moved by:** Councillor Anderson

**Seconded by:** Warden Lennox

That the report titled Solid Waste Services January 2023 Report be received for information.

**Carried**

**6. Adjournment**

At 2:17 pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting until February 14, 2023 or at the call of the Chair.

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Steve O'Neill  
Chair  
Solid Waste Services Committee



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Services Committee  
**From:** Das Soligo, Manager of Solid Waste Services  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
**Subject:** **Solid Waste Services January 2023 Report**

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### **Background:**

2023 is anticipated to be another busy year for the County of Wellington's Solid Waste Services (SWS), with a number of projects either underway or soon to be initiated. Every January, SWS brings a report to Committee and Council to provide a brief update on notable projects and other important matters that are relevant to the County's waste management programmes, and to the commitments made through the Solid Waste Services Strategy.

### **Projects:**

#### **Transitioning the Blue Box Programme**

As reported previously, the Province of Ontario has advanced a regulation to amend the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (2016) through Bill 229 – Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (2020). The draft regulation provides a framework to continue the transition of municipal recycling systems to full producer responsibility. Through the proposed plan, the County of Wellington transition year is scheduled to be 2025.

There are a number of beneficial elements of the proposed regulation, such as transitioning approximately \$2 million a year in recycling system costs to producers and standardizing and expanding the materials that will be accepted in the Province's Blue Box Programme. However, there are also several concerning aspects of the plan, including the fact that industrial, commercial and institutional businesses/organizations will not have any access to curbside collection services through municipal or producer-led collection systems.

Staff will continue to monitor the progress of this, and associated regulations, and will participate in consultations and report back to the SWS Committee as appropriate.

#### **Riverstown Phase II Development**

The Riverstown landfill site has a design, approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), which includes two distinct waste-filling mounds. Phase I has been in operation as a landfill since at least 1970, and reached its approved capacity in 2022. Phase II is a fully engineered waste mound and was constructed according to design specifications in 2020. In 2022 Phase II became operational, receiving its first load of waste following a ribbon-cutting during National Public Works Week.

In 2023 a leachate pumping station will be installed once the design is finalized. Staff and consultants also continue work on a feasibility study and Environmental Assessment for the leachate conveyance.

and treatment systems. In the meantime, SWS was successful in receiving approvals from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to manage leachate on-site while the eventual leachate treatment and conveyance solutions are being determined and constructed. These approvals will result in short-term operational savings as treatment costs will be avoided.

### **Build on Success of Curbside Collection Contract**

The County's current curbside collection contract came into effect on July 1, 2020. With this new contract, some key features of the curbside collection service changed, including;

- Standardized collection frequency for both urban and rural households
- Collection on both sides of all roads (i.e. in driveway)
- Weekly recycling and organics collection
- Bi-weekly waste collection
- Leaf and yard waste collection
- Collection fleet using a compressed natural gas fuel source (which will decrease greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality and vehicle noise)

The new collection programmes are being well received and utilized by residents. Participation and tonnage rates have exceeded the original estimates. Staff plan on continuing to promote and encourage the use of all of these services in order to realize the environmental benefits of the collection system. Over the year ahead, SWS plans to build upon the award-winning innovative approaches to engaging County residents by releasing videos and increasing the amount of presentations to school and community groups.

### **Our Food Future**

SWS is an active participant in the Our Food Future, Smart Cities initiative, as the Waste as a Resource workstream is one of the three pillars of the project. While there are multiple opportunities within the Waste as a Resource workstream and collaborative opportunities across the other workstreams, some of the more notable projects that SWS is involved in include;

- Explore, develop, execute and evaluate opportunities to collaborate on food waste reduction and diversion initiatives between the City of Guelph and County of Wellington
- Acquire baseline data related to food waste generation at the household level, and design, test and evaluate interventions to reduce food waste
- Participant in the successful Circular Innovation Council pilot project, which is providing food waste diversion opportunities to the industrial, commercial and institutional sector
- Participate in the development and provision of community focused education and engagement opportunities related to food waste

Staff will provide periodic updates to the SWS Committee on any notable aspects of our work, related to Our Food Future.

### **Elora and Rothsay Waste Facility Upgrades**

In September 2020 County Council approved upgrades to the Elora and Rothsay waste facilities, in order to provide similar infrastructure, working conditions and patron experience, to the County's other four waste facilities. Longer than anticipated wait times to receive MECP approvals for the changes have led to a rescheduling of initial timelines to complete this work. Upon receiving approval

to build towards the design plans, final design, permitting and tendering work will proceed with the hopes of completing construction in 2023.

### **Environmental Enhancements at Closed Landfill Sites**

Over the past four years SWS has begun establishing pollinator habitat and food sources at selected County closed landfill sites. These efforts have ranged from introducing wildflower seed mixes in landfill capping works to planting trees, shrubs and grasses which will benefit local pollinator populations. These works will continue in 2023, along with the planned introduction of barn swallow habitat support at selected waste facilities.

### **Recommendation:**

That the report titled “Solid Waste Services January 2023 Report” be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Das Soligo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Das Soligo  
Manager of Solid Waste Services