



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Tuesday, July 18th, 2023 – Hybrid Attendance 1:00p.m.

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- With:** Ashley Nordlund      Craig Debbo      Ethan Amyotte      Rory McMillan  
C. Lisa Moncrief
- Staff:** Danica Farion – Executive Assistant      Mukesh Pokharel – Solid Waste Manager  
Shaun Clifford – Facilities Manager      Dave Mellor – GM of Engineering  
Bill Mundy – GM of Utilities
- Regrets:** Lisa Devlin

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Ashley Nordlund called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and delivered the land acknowledgment.

Round Table introductions.

### 2. Presentation from Facilities Department

Shaun spoke about the items that he provided to the Committee (attached).

Questioned whether there are any incentives out of reporting requirements, Shaun shared that any 'perks' would come with the energy star rating.

Shaun shared that the Global Adjustment Rate is tacked on to charges, 52% of the City's Hydro bill is Global Adjustment and out of the City's control. The Chair shared that Weyerhaeuser contracts a third party to monitor their peak hours; Weyerhaeuser will shut down for 100-120 hours per year to compensate for those 5 peak hours.

BAS system will monitoring of peak consumption, but also allow for Capital planning to identify areas that need restoration or improvement to allow better consumption models.

Shaun spoke to core assets vs noncore assets; he also elaborated on the challenges with adding value to the City's green infrastructure. A member questioned whether the balance of reducing green infrastructure is considered when undertaking new projects, Shaun explained that green infrastructure is considered more so on a financial impact



rather than an environmental impact. Another member shared that incorporating the City's green assets should be considered when developing other strategic plans and that the government should also be considering these assets as environmental. The Staff Resource will follow up with the City's Asset Manager to determine whether the target date is still attainable for item 5 in the SAP.

The table thanked Shaun for his presentation.

The Chair questioned the trial of electric vehicles. Discussions from staff on this and the first steps in pursuing a feasibility study, utilizing one specific vehicle may be a good trial. There is currently a no idling policy with the City's fleet as well.

### **3. Presentation from Solid Waste Department**

Mukesh shared that the Kenora Area Landfill was originally designed for 40 years, a tonnage of 800,000, or, if a certain grade is reached the landfill will expire. Mukesh provided an explanation of how and when the Kenora Area Landfill was developed. Based on many factors, it is difficult to determine the exact current remaining years, but best projections indicate approximately 20 years remaining. Internal processes are underway towards plans for future landfill space.

The ECA for the Kenora Area Landfill is site specific and will expire when the Landfill has reached its lifespan. Mukesh explained that the ECA can be amended with proper consultation and applications and that the transfer station is a good example with the Household Hazardous Waste.

The Table discussed community composting and Mukesh provided insight and history to this. Community Composting is mandated in Ontario for communities with a population of 50,000 or more, as Kenora is not close to that threshold, composting is not required. That being said, the Solid Waste department has looked into different avenues over the years, one such option that may be obtainable required at minimum 1,000 tons of compost per day, and again Kenora cannot supply those volumes.

Community Composting would need to be an added service level and would have to be at the direction Council since it is not legislated.

Public private partnership with respect to composting, Bill does not think this was looked into in the past but will keep it in mind when considering new models.

Councillor Moncrief suggested looking at incorporating neighbouring communities to increase volume with respect to composting.



Mukesh shared with the Table that there were concerns with how the preexisting re-use area was operated; it was open to the elements, people were dumping items that they shouldn't have been; safety hazard with people (especially children) in the area not paying attention to traffic. Bill shared that there wasn't a huge uptake on this previously, and there is competing interests with local charities, a narrowed down approach would need to be identified.

Suggestion from a member that staff reach out to the City of Winnipeg regarding a CBC article they found regarding Winnipeg conducting a study on re-use areas. Staff Resource reminded the table that they cannot direct work to staff and direction should come from Council. Staff resource recommended drafting a letter to the City of Winnipeg on this from the Committee. Councillor Moncrief recommended she bring a notice of motion forward at the next Council meeting regarding the re-use area at the Transfer Station.

**Moved by Rory McMillian and Seconded by Ethan Amyotte and Carried:** that Councillor Moncrief make a Notice of Motion regarding reinstating the Re-Use Area at the Transfer Station at the next Council Meeting.

The Chair thanked Mukesh for his time and noted that the Committee is here to support the City and should there be anything either departments presenting today require from the Committee to reach out to the staff resource; she continued that the Committee does have a budget to spend as well and is looking for the most effective use for this.

There was not enough time to go over the monthly and annual solid waste statistics, as such they will be circulated as part of these minutes.

Members expressed thanks to City Staff for their presentations and information today.

**4. Next Meeting** – September 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

**Adjourn Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.