

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Waste Management Strategy Steering Committee Meets

Midhurst/ November 26, 2009 – The County of Simcoe's new Solid Waste Management Strategy Steering Committee met for the first time on Wednesday at the County Administration Centre in Midhurst.

"Developing a collaborative waste management direction requires strong leadership," stated Warden Tony Guergis. "To get things back on track and end the divisiveness, I drafted the motion creating this committee focussed on solutions and including the public and our community partners in the process. I believe it is extremely important to Council that the public be involved every step of the way as we develop the County's waste management strategy."

Committee members endorsed the terms of reference and reviewed background information with respect to the County's solid waste management strategy process to date. Also, representatives from Stantec Consultants Inc. presented details of a draft report completed on Phase One of their study.

Stantec has been retained to assist the County in developing a new 20-year strategy intended to improve the region's waste diversion programs and provide short and long-term options for the disposal of waste.

"The County is working on a very aggressive timeline for completion of the waste management strategy process as directed by Council and today the Strategy Steering Committee received a broad introduction to the subject," stated newly-elected committee Chair Gord Wauchope, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Innisfil. "More detailed discussions will take place as we roll up our sleeves and get down to work."

Committee members elected Deputy Mayor Wauchope to serve as Chair and Gord McKay, representative of Zero Waste Simcoe as Vice Chair.

The following members of the public were appointed to the Steering Committee through the County's application process:

- Mark Guthrie, general public representative
- John Nychuk, general public representative
- Nickolas Rowe, general public representative
- Gordon McKay representing Zero Waste Simcoe
- Mary Munnoch representing the Adjala-Tosorontio Ratepayers Association

Warden Guergis' motion also directed that the Strategy Steering Committee consider and incorporate the principles of zero waste in its review and membership include elected members of the County's Waste Management Sub Committee and non-voting representation from the cities of Barrie and Orillia, First Nations, provincial and federal governments.

"When we work with some of our neighbours it's good. When we all work together, it's great," concluded Warden Guergis. "This inclusive process will ensure that all parties will know they played a key role in finding acceptable solutions for our residents and for the greater good of Simcoe County."

The next meeting of the committee has been tentatively scheduled for 9:00 AM on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009 in the Council Chamber at the County Administration Centre in Midhurst. Stantec representatives will present details on the current waste management systems in place in Simcoe County, projections for future requirements and potential options.

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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Members of the newly formed Waste Management Strategy Steering Committee held their inaugural meeting on November 25, 2009 in Council Chambers.