Meeting: COUNCIL
Date: September 29, 2014
Dept: Public Works and Parks
Report No: OPS-2014-38-CNC

Title: LAKERIDGE CITIZENS FOR CLEAN WATER DELEGATION COMMENTS RE: GREENBANK AIRPORT/SITE ALTERATION

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT this report be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

Council received a delegation from the Lakeridge Citizens for Clean Water (LCCW) at the June 16, 2014 General Purpose and Administration Committee Meeting.

LCCW presented a number of issues about the ongoing fill operations at the Greenbank airport. Their presentation included a list of 8 items that LCCW indicated required the municipality’s action.

The following is the list of LCCW’s action items and staff’s response:

1. Mandatory review and approval by the Township and the Township’s consultant of drafts, including the LCCW draft regarding an amended Fill Quality protocol.

The municipality does not have a dedicated consultant for assisting with site alteration permits. The municipality has used Golder Associates from time-to-time. Other municipalities, such as East Gwillimbury, retain a dedicated consultant for a specified term to support municipal staff as required. Implementing such as arrangement would require considerable
staff resources to request proposals and set up an agreement for such services.

The existing Fill Protocol in the Greenbank Airport agreement has been updated based on discussions coming out of the Advisory Committee Meeting. A new fill protocol will form part of a new permit for the site when Greenbank Airways submits their request to operate at 400 trucks per day. All comments received about the fill protocol will be reviewed as part of any new protocol in a new permit.

2. Develop and implement a response plan for the unapproved load quantities versus the reported load quantities on site

The municipality is undertaking an audit of the quantities to-date. The outcome of this audit may result in the need for updated operating policies in the agreement to cover any revisions.

3. Conduct significantly more audit testing and post to Town website.

This request is difficult to address because there is no legislated level of testing required. DL Services conducts testing in accordance with “industry standards”. Given the level of audit testing already being conducted by the source QP, the receiving QP and the PhD program, staff do not feel there needs to be significantly more testing. Audit testing will be undertaken shortly, and the number of tests will be more than normally taken in past audits.

Once the municipality has its solicitor’s final comments on posting audit testing, it is expected that this information will be posted to the municipality’s website.

4. Require the approved soil reports list specific volumes in cubic metres and that volume changes are reviewed and approved by the Township prior to shipment to Greenbank with documentation regarding further sampling along with the rationale for the increase provided to the Township.
This issue directly relates to item 2. The development of an operating procedure addressing updates/amendments to quantities from source sites would deal with this issue. Staff will be discussing this further the applicant and their QP to prepare such a policy for a new permit.

5. **Require monthly source site fill volumes and load counts to continue to be included in the quarterly reports thereby allowing for easy and necessary Township review.**

Staff is reviewing the quarterly report format with Greenbank Airways for improvements to data content and presentation. This will be reviewed further with Greenbank Airways at the next quarterly meeting.

6. **Develop a Township contingency plan for bad fill that includes removal of Township approval where repeat offenders deliver bad fill to the site.**

This item does not require a contingency plan and forms part of the Standard Operating Procedures for the applicant and their QP. The penalty issue for repeat offenders would need to be reviewed as part of a new permit/agreement as there are provisions in the existing agreement dealing with penalties and dispute resolution.

7. **Retain a full-time QP to peer review, audit and inspect this site and all associated documentation so that the requirements of the agreement are enforced and compliance is ensured. The costs of the QP should be borne by the proponent as permitted by the agreement.**

This issue relates to item 1. The municipality may want to consider a QP for occasional review to support staff, but staff cannot recommend a full-time QP to support administration of the permit/agreement.

8. **Develop a more comprehensive and conservative agreement now, so it is ready for permit renewal time.**

Staff has been collecting material for a new agreement to be implemented with the MTO approval for 400 trucks per day. Work has been ongoing to have a new agreement ready for the expiry of the existing permit at year end.
Staff have visited the Greenbank Airport regularly and met with both the airport staff and staff of DL Services. There are issues and procedures requiring refinement or development of new procedures as the work on the site progresses.

The existing permit expires December 31, 2014 as it was assumed all of the MTO permit issues would be addressed by that time. As there is still no definite answer from the MTO on the permits requested, it is highly likely Council will be dealing with a new Greenbank Airport permit in December. Many of the issues raised by LCCW are being reviewed and/or monitored, and there will be updates proposed to the next permit/agreement for this site.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Staff is ensuring that as issues arise and new information becomes available, it is updating existing bylaws, agreements and policies to promote environmental protection.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The LCCW suggestions about increased consulting services would have to be reviewed by Council as it relates to the fees and revenue generated from site alteration permits and agreements. A decision on additional consulting services could be addressed either as part of the annual budget review or be tied to an individual application/permit.

SUMMARY:

The LCCW recommended items are being addressed as part of the ongoing review of the existing site alteration permit for the Greenbank Airport.
Many of the items will be re-visited as part of the permit's renewal/replacement at year-end when the existing permit expires.

Respectfully submitted:

Ian Roger, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer