

SEPTAGE DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE RESTAURANT

OCTOBER 13, 2005

There was a meeting to discuss options for the management of Septage held in a restaurant in Renfrew on Thursday October 13, 2005. The following municipal representatives were present:

Arnprior	Terry Gibeau	Mayor
Admaston/Bromley	Raye-Anne Briscoe	Mayor
	Robert Dick	Councillor
	Jack Kelly	Councillor
	Dirk Rook	Councillor
	Beverly Briscoe	Clerk-Treasurer
	Chris Kunopaski	Road Superintendent
Horton	Robert A. Johnston	Reeve
	Bob Hall	Deputy Reeve
	Dave Bennett	Councillor
	Don Eady	Councillor
	Bob Kingsbury	Councillor
	Mackie J. McLaren	CAO/Clerk
McNab-Braeside	Neil Stewart	Mayor
	Dale Gillan	Deputy Mayor
	Lloyd Cameron	Councillor and Presenter tonight
	Elmer Raycroft	Councillor
	Aldene Styles	Councillor
	Noreen Mellema	COA/Clerk
Town of Renfrew	Sandi Heins	Mayor
	Tom Anderson	Councillor
	Earl J. Bennett	Councillor
	Gail Cole	Councillor
	Bill Ringrose	Councillor
	Michel Asselin	Director of Development & Works And Presenter tonight
	Bill McMahon	Treasurer
County of Renfrew	John MacKay	Public Works & Development Eng.
	Bruce McIntyre	County Coordinator of Grants
	Mike Pinet	Manager of Capital Works
Whitewater Region	Art Cobb	Councillor
	Joseph Rook	Councillor

Also present were the following members of the Public:

Helmut Berg, Township of Admaston/Bromley, Xavier Kunopaski, Township of Admission-Brambly and George Thompson, Township of Horton.

1. WELCOME BY ROBERT A. JOHNSTON – REEVE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Reeve Johnston welcomed the Council members, staff members and members of the public to this meeting. He gave a brief outline of how this meeting was formulated after discussions at a Conference in Kingston in September. He thanked Mayor Sandi Heins and the Council of the Town of Renfrew for arranging this meeting spot and for the snacks that were available.

2. INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

Reeve Johnston introduced the speakers as they came forward to their presentations. Prior to the main presentations of the evening he invited comments from the County of Renfrew. John MacKay, Engineer for the County of Renfrew, was present and he briefly reviewed the County of Renfrew Biosolids and Septage Management Plan Report that

they had commissioned by Dillon Consulting. The report sets out how systems can be managed and set out eight treatment options. There options were:

1. In-truck lime-stabilization with a lagoon for storing stabilized septage during the winter and wet weather and application of stabilized septage on agricultural land.
2. In-vessel lime-stabilization, with a lagoon for storing stabilized septage during the winter and wet weather and application of stabilized septage on agricultural land.
3. Raw septage would be dewatered at the treatment plant with polymer addition and Geotube bags; the dry septage cake would be stored in the bag over-winter and be land applied; and the effluent treated in the treatment plant.
4. Raw septage would be dewatered at the treatment plant with polymer addition and Geotube bags; the dry septage cake would be composted in the bag and land applied or sold as compost; and the effluent treated in the treatment plant.
5. Raw septage would be dewatered at the treatment plant with polymer addition and Geotube bags; the dry septage cake would be taken to the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre in Pembroke for composting; and the effluent treated in the treatment plant.
6. Raw septage would be treated at the treatment plants equipped with receiving facilities designed for accepting septage and the additional biosolids would be landfilled in the winter and applied on agricultural land when permitted.
7. Raw septage would be treated at the treatment plants equipped with receiving facilities design for accepting septage and the additional biosolids would be stored on-site during the winter and applied on agricultural land when permitted.
8. Raw septage and biosolids would be stabilized with reed beds and stored for an extended period of time (5-7 years) before being removed for land application or sale as compost. The effluent would be treated at adjacent treatment plants or polishing wetland.

Mr MacKay pointed out that the County has not made any one recommendation of these options. They wanted to present all the Options at this stage and encourage discussion as they could see municipalities in different areas of the County selecting different options.

#### Bruce McIntyre – Coordinator of County Grants

Mr McIntyre expressed knowledge of the Federation of Community and Municipalities grants programs. He offered to help local municipalities submit a grant application to FCM. The grant process is not fast, it is at least nine months and the grant benefit would be 50% of the costs. He suggested that a septage project using any one of the listed options would qualify for funding, from the FCM Green Fund.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

Reeve Johnston called on the two presenters, calling first Lloyd and Amy Cameron to make a presentation on the Reed Bed Alternative. At the start of this presentation Lloyd Cameron declared pecuniary interest as he is a member of Council in a municipality in this area. Mr Cameron said his review indicates a Reed Bed system option would be a viable option for year around septage placement in the rural area. Unfortunately MOE have not released the rule and regulations. He called on Amy Cameron to make a power point presentation on the Reed Bed System. This is attached to these Minutes.

Reeve Johnston thanked the Camerons for their presentation and called Michel Asselin, Director of Development & Public Works for the Town of Renfrew to review the offer of the Town of Renfrew to expand their planned Waste Treatment Plant to include the opportunity to add septage waste to it.

Mr Asselin informed the public that the Town of Renfrew is mandated by the Minister of Environment to expand their current primary Waste Treatment Plant. They have an aggressive timetable with time restraints set by MOE. They have to have the construction complete by March 2009. The estimated cost is \$30 million. Mr Asselin presented a power-point presentation which is attached to these Minutes.

#### 4. QUESTION PERIOD

Reeve Johnston invited questions from the floor and asked the questions to be directed to either/or or both of the Presenters.

Bruce McIntyre asked if there were built-in costs for Renfrew to increase their Plant to accept municipal septage? Mr. Asselin said that there would be increased loading of the system, therefore more engineering is required, more capital dollars are required and it could cost up to \$3 million extra to add what is required to the Plant for septage.

Don Eady asked about COMRIF Grants, noting that the September deadline is past, it is too late for municipalities to apply this round for funding for the expansion. Bruce McIntyre responded that the COMRIF grant period is over, however the grant he referred to was from the Federation of Municipalities Fund and it has no deadline. Don Eady asked what the percentage of the grant would be? Mr McIntyre said that the grant is fifty/fifty. A Letter of Intent is submitted first. If the Letter of Intent is accepted then a full application is forwarded.

Terry Gibeau asked what is done with the residuals in the Treatment Plant? Mr Asselin described the process, the inert grit and sand, the inorganics are washed, they are compressed and they are taken to the Landfill Site immediately. These tend to be grit and gravel sand. The organics are taken through the treatment stream. Mr Gibeau asked about the Reed Bed System. It is cleaned out every five to seven years, is this acceptable as compost? Amy Cameron said that the Ontario Regulations are not known but in New Brunswick it is sold as compost or put on land as is. Terry Gibeau asked if the Reed Bed System is dewatered? Amy Cameron said they want a wet bed, it keeps odour down and helps in the breakdown of the waste. Terry Gibeau asked how are the pathogens eliminated in the Reed Bed System? Amy Cameron said the reeds absorb the pathogens and the metals and the reeds are cut annually and destroyed by fire, in addition the micro-organism in the bed eliminates pathogens as well. Mr Gibeau asked about toxins and metals? Amy Cameron said the same process, the Reed Beds absorb all these toxins, heavy metal, pathogens etc. Mr Gibeau asked if there was further treatment of the liquid required? Ms Cameron said that there are two ways of handling the liquid, there is a horizontal bed and a vertical bed. In the vertical bed the liquid is filtered through small wetland areas by gravity, and eventually the waste is pure enough to be discharged into streams. In the horizontal system the liquid is ponded and is trucked to a Treatment Plant for processing. Mr Gibeau asked if the Reed Bed System can handle sludge from treatment plants? Ms Cameron said yes, the ideal Reed Bed System is a mixture of sludge and septage.

Sandi Hines asked if there was a special burning process of the reeds when they are harvested? Ms Cameron said no, there is no special process for the burning of the reeds.

George Thompson asked if the total Reed Bed is decommissioned after the seven or eight year period? Ms Cameron described the Bed System – there are two beds prepared, the first one is used for five to seven years and it is let sit for two years. The second bed is used during this time period. The first bed is then cleaned out, any repairs necessary are carried out to it and it is used again when the second bed is full. Mr Thompson said he is appreciative of the meeting that has been organized tonight, he noted that there is a real need for discussion as the septic issue is not going away. There will be a cost up front but there will be a revenue stream from it for many years.

Bruce McIntyre informed the audience, that he met with FCM Officials today and they view applications with partnership as a strong application and if there is a public/private partnership involved it is an even stronger application. Single applications are still reviewed.

Raye-Anne Briscoe thanked the Town of Renfrew for hosting the meeting tonight. There is a need for further get-togethers in the future. She looked to Ted Strike, Chair of

County Special Committees which put together the Septage Study to consider follow-up meetings for more discussion. She noted that the new Provincial Policy Statement has a short description that requires municipalities to have arrangements for the treatment of septage or development will be restricted. How this is done is not described. She thanked Bruce McIntyre for the offer to put grants together for local municipalities.

Ted Strike said that he is aware of the challenges of what each municipality needs. Out of curiosity, he and Lloyd Cameron have worked in the past few days with Dillon Consulting and they will continue to explore discussions.

Neil Stewart thanked the organizers of tonight's meeting. He noted that costs were not mentioned in the Reed Bed presentation. Is this a private development or is there public participation? Lloyd Cameron said they are putting a feeler out to see if there is interest from Municipalities. If so they will look at other beds. It is a costly process for an individual to build a Reed Bed system so they will be looking for a partnership arrangement.

Bob Kingsbury asked if there was a magic number of municipalities that had to be on board before a Reed Bed System can be constructed? Amy Cameron said no. Lloyd Cameron said that when the regulations are known the Bed will be up and operating within a year.

Mike Asselin said that the enlargement of the Renfrew Plant would be at a full cost recovery from the local municipalities. They can build any size that is required.

Robert A. Johnston asked if there was a possibility Renfrew would put up all the capital costs and charge back a tipping fee for each time a hauler dumped into the system to recover their costs. He also noted that one of the haulers in the area, hauls septage from outside the County. Both Lloyd Cameron and Mike Asselin said that their system can be designed for the area that makes up any agreement.

George Thompson added that he does not believe that a private company can build a system cheaper than a municipality can.

Sandi Heins informed the group that the Town of Renfrew started out approaching the County to see if the County wanted to participate in the construction of their facility and the answer they received was no. So they went on with their own plans which is sized to accept septage from the 100 septic tanks that are within the Town of Renfrew boundary. The system would have to be redesigned if other municipalities want in and these costs would have to be borne by the municipalities.

Mike Pinet, Manager of Capital Works for the County of Renfrew, who was involved in the County Report, said one of the largest determining factors in the options was transportation. Trucking costs to a central facility in the County is overwhelming. Therefore, he sees that there will be several areas get together and establish a central site within those areas.

Mr Pinet asked if the Town of Renfrew's estimated cost of \$3 million included septage from all the County? Mr Asselin said it is based on a 30,000 population that would be using the facility, which would be basically the area represented by the municipalities represented here tonight. They could see that there would be several outlets within the County and Renfrew could be the area for the east end of the County. Mr Pinet pointed out that the septage is higher in organics and less in chemicals which is different from sewage from urban areas which have chemicals and heavy metals from industry. There are issues on both systems, too much organic can throw off the treatment process in a treatment plant and there could be too much chemicals and metals from an urban area to go into the Reed Bed system.

Terry Gibeau said he realizes Renfrew's time line restraints, he thanked Renfrew for looking outwards to the area municipalities to offer solutions. The Reed Bed looks attractive and questioned whether it can handle more sludge than actual treatment of

sewage. Mr Asselin noted that the two systems have different design requirements. Sludge from the town would require a Reed Bed System that would be too large. There are less problems if the treatment is taking place in a waste treatment facility. Terry Gibeau asked if it was cheaper for Renfrew to treat Arnprior sludge rather than Arnprior landfilling their sludge? Mr Asselin said that the problem is space and landfill, that is where the cost is. Under the Nutrient Management requirements this would be tough to do.

John McKay noted that there was a positive attitude tonight in the discussion. The County Study realized that there were a number of possible solutions that were available to municipalities. These solutions would be where several municipalities get together and select the option that is best to them which is what the study envisaged as the local municipalities know their own circumstances and opportunities that are available in the area.

Don Eady asked if there would be a formal presentation made to municipalities so we know what the actual costs would be before decisions have to be made? Amy Cameron said they do not know their costs until they see other Reed Beds. They have planned a trip, in a few weeks, to a Reed Bed System in New Brunswick

Lloyd Cameron added that they also need to know that the Provincial Regulations are, as they have not been released yet. Mr Asselin noted that Renfrew Town Council would formulate their position due to the urgent time factors that they are faced with. Bill McMahan said that there are two alternatives, both need a business plan for a municipality to make a decision. How do we guarantee that we get customers? This is the start of many meetings to determine this.

Mike Pinet asked if the group wanted the County to contact the local Ministry of Environment advisor, Andrew Polly, to see if there are any regulations coming out? Lloyd Cameron said he checked with Mr Polly recently and he had no information to give.

Bruce McIntyre pointed out that if we applied for a grant application tonight it would be June 1, 2006 before we would have approval. He wanted us to know that timing before we made any decision.

Mike Asselin asked if the FCM fund would cover primary studies first? Mr McIntyre said the first step in the process is a letter of intent, for which there would be very little cost and if accepted, the formal application would be made, again with little cost. But the final approval would be on the whole project. By January 1, 2006 we would know if our letter of intent was accepted and then June 1, 2006 would be the final approval.

As there were no further questions Robert A. Johnston thanked the people gathered this evening. He encouraged further discussion to take place and he declared the meeting closed at 8:35 p.m. for private networking discussions.

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Robert A. Johnston

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Mackie J. McLaren