



Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee

Meeting #71 – Minutes
Thursday, June 1, 2006
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
1774 Queen Street East – Mennonite New Life Centre

ATTENDANCE:

Karen Buck	Citizens for a Safe Environment, Co Chair
Chris Krueger	Beach Resident
Connie Demb	Beach Resident
John Hopkins	ICMC
Jim Neff	Citizens for a Safe Environment
Doug Phillips	BMCN 416
Michael Rosenberg	Environment and Economy Coalition
William Sheehan	Citizen

REGRETS

Stephen Connell	
David Done	Safe Sewage
Karey Shinn	Safe Sewage, Co chair
Stephen White	

STAFF

David Evans	Public Consultation Unit, Facilitator
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MINUTES

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1.0 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Introductions

Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and everyone present introduced themselves.

1.2 Review and Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and the following amendments were made:

- A discussion about city staff at NLC meetings was added under item 1.
- A discussion of the Michigan sludge issue was added under item 2.
- A discussion of hydrocarbon testing at the skateboard park was added under Progress on Landscaping Site Plan.

The agenda was approved as amended.

1.3 Facilitator's Report re: minutes/agenda on website

David Evans informed the NLC that he will be sending everyone on the mailing list a letter asking whether they would prefer an electronic or a hard copy of the NLC minutes. This will save on, staff time, paper and postage. Beginning with this meeting, the draft agenda and final minutes will be available on the website. This will allow people who are not NLC members to follow what the committee is doing. Any members who do not respond to David Evans with their preference will be assumed to be getting the minutes off the website.

Discussion:

- **William Sheehan** asked why the ICMC website has not been put up. **David Evans** said that the content of the website will be put on the agenda for the next ICMC meeting.
- **Doug Phillips** said that he would like to have past minutes included on the website. **David Evans** said this is unfortunately not possible, as the past minutes are scattered. He noted that he has a file of hard copies dating back to the early 2000s of some of the minutes. **Connie Demb** suggested that they should go in the City archives. **David Evans** said it would probably end up buried in a warehouse. For now, they will stay in the public consultation unit's office.
- **Chris Krueger** asked whether people could provide content for the website. **David Evans** said that would be welcomed. In response to a question from **Karen Buck**, **Chris Krueger** said that he would like to see a public introduction and mission statement on the website. **Connie Demb** suggested that it include the section of the mediator's report that pertains to the establishment of the NLC. **David Evans** said that would be possible.

1.4 Presence of staff at NLC meetings

David Evans noted that Mark Rupke is not present. **Connie Demb** said that the mediation agreement states that City staff is only there to facilitate and provide support. **David Evans** noted that there are items on the agenda that require a response, but that sometimes a written report could be provided, rather than having a staff member attend. **Karen Buck** said they have asked for that in the past.

2.0 Review of Works Committee Decision and Agenda

Karen Buck explained that articles appeared in the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail* today stating that the Republic landfill site in Michigan has declared it will not be accepting sewer sludge from Toronto after August 31st.

Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin had spoken to the NLC before the meeting regarding this issue. **Karen Buck** summarized what she said:

-The City is planning to move forward with all of their legal options to determine whether it has legal grounds to continue dumping at the Republic site.

-Their next option would be to look for landfill space in Ontario. They would then look at all of their certificates of approval for land application and expand that program. Terratec Environmental would be encouraged to take more sludge.

-The next option would be to look for landfill sites outside of Ontario in New York, Michigan and possibly Quebec.

-The fourth option would be to expedite the requests for expressions of interest for the use of sludge in contingency options in according with the mediation agreement, and to put out a request for proposals for beneficial use of sludge. Non-agricultural uses of sludge are also being looked at. Terratec Environmental is being given a free hand to look at all other possibilities. Phil Sidwa from Terratec has said they were interested in a storage area.

-If incineration at Ashbridges Bay is used as a contingency it would be for a short time because the incinerators are not in good condition.

-City representatives are meeting with Ministry officials tomorrow and are looking at all of the options.

Connie Demb added that Councillor Bussin said there should be renewed contact with Falconbridge and Inco, and she was under the impression that they were the ones holding back the testing of biosolids. **Connie Demb** noted that they were previously told that the City was holding back on supplying biosolids.

Karen Buck said the City is talking about creating a 100% beneficial use committee. It would begin with the NLC, which would have a meeting dedicated to moving to 100% beneficial use, and would be chaired by Councillor Bussin. This committee may run for the entire planning process or another committee may be put in place later. She believes this committee will be productive, as it will get more people around the table communicating and working together.

Discussion:

- **William Sheehan** said that, if the NLC is told that incineration will be resumed for a short period of time, they should make sure the amount of time is defined. **Karen Buck** said that any amount of time is unacceptable. **William Sheehan** said that he also does not like incineration and would like to see a non-polluting solution. He also suggested getting the state of the incinerators in writing.
- **Doug Phillips** asked if Inco and Falconbridge have confirmed that they have sludge that is free of extra contaminants. **Karen Buck** said that David Done

contacted Falconbridge and was under the impression that, if Falconbridge was engaged in the process of remediation their mind tailings, they could possibly take all of Toronto's sludge for 20-50 years.

- **Michael Rosenberg** asked why Republic has said they will not longer be accepting the sludge. **David Evans** replied that their public statement was that they were receiving complaints of odour from local residents. At the same time, the company wants to expand its landfill, and feel they will be able to get more public support for the expansion if they eliminate the odour problem. **Karen Buck** noted that more information could be found in the *Globe and Mail* article.
- **William Sheehan** said that he thinks sending sludge to Falconbridge in Sudbury would create a lot of pollution and would not be economically viable. **Jim Neff** said it would be more economically viable than shipping it to Michigan. **Connie Demb** said it would be more environmentally friendly if the shipping were done using trains or trucks fueled by biodiesel.

Connie Demb said that she believes they should send a communication to Works Committee voicing their concerns, despite Councillor Bussin's suggestion not to. She would like the NLC to send a letter expressing concern that Michigan will no longer accept sewer sludge and support for beneficial use options.

Discussion:

- **Chris Krueger** added that the letter should state that they do not believe that incinerating sludge should be an option. **Karen Buck** noted that the incinerators are in bad repair. **Connie Demb** said she does not feel the state of the incinerators should be mentioned, as the City will say they can be fixed. She added that the incinerators could still be used, as they still have certificates of approval. She wants the letter to say no to incineration for any duration.
- **John Hopkins** suggested said that it might be possible to chemically treat the sludge to get rid of the smell. **Karen Buck** said that they were told that this issue has been worked on years and has never been solved.
- **Michael Rosenberg** said he would like to know whether the pelletizer will be operational within the next few months, as he believes it will be necessary to deal with this problem. **Connie Demb** replied that Councillor Bussin said the pelletizer will be "up and running by the end of this year." **Michael Rosenberg** said he believes they should look at palletizing, even if some of the pellets would go to landfill, as pellets would be less odorous. He also believes that the material should spend more time in the digesters.
- **Connie Demb** said that Phil Sidwa from Terratec believes that the process of feeding the sludge actually creates a chemical reaction that makes it more odorous. She would like more public scrutiny of the \$130 million odour control contract.
- **William Sheehan** said they have been after Terratec to find beneficial uses for years, and he does not think this problem will be solved any time soon. He added that he does not think this issue came as a complete shock to the Works Committee, and he believes that alternative plans should have been underway.

- **Doug Phillips** said there is a history of non-transparency and noted that public input is very important.
- **John Hopkins** brought up Waste to Energy plants. **Karen Buck** said they are not interested in incineration. The mediation agreement specifies the contingencies must be 100% beneficial use, and contain no incineration. **Michael Rosenberg** said that people are allowed to have different opinions about incineration, and he suggested that people could discuss this outside of the NLC forum. **Chris Krueger** suggested writing an article in a Toronto paper discussing the issues.
- **Doug Phillips** said he believes there is a provincial law requiring them to have facilities for incineration in case of extreme emergency.
- **Jim Neff** said that section 9.3.1.7. of the Mediation Agreement states that the City will work with the NLC to address odour issues, and therefore the group has a clear mandate to deal with the current problem.
- **Jim Neff** said he was concerned about agreeing to a letter that has not yet been written. **Connie Demb** said she will write a draft, which Jim Neff will approve before it is sent.

Connie Demb motioned that she will draft a letter to Work Committee for Karen Buck's signature that includes the following:

-an expression of concern after learning through the media that Republic landfill will no longer be accepting Toronto's sewer sludge

-support for the expediting of the 100% beneficial use program including an increase of current agricultural use application and starting to include non-agricultural land uses as well

-support for the rebuilding of the pelletizer, and a recommendation that the rebuilding process is expedited so that the pelletizer can start to take half of the sludge

-concern that incineration might start again, and a statement that the NLC is not in favour of incineration for any amount of time, as stated in the Mediation Agreement

-concern that the contract for odour control address the odour issue as it affects land application

-concern that, after being assured that contingency planning would be done, the NLC learned through the media that no planning had been done.

The letter will be approved by Jim Neff.

Seven were in favour. One was opposed. Motion was passed.

Action Item #1: Connie Demb to write a letter to Works Committee expressing concern about Republic landfill's decision to stop accepting Toronto sludge.

3.0 Review of Action Items

Action Item #6 Meeting #69: *Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to write a letter requesting to be kept informed of any impacts the August 19, 2005 storm had on the ABTP or the feeder sewers.*

Karey Shinn requested a copy of the report to Works Committee on the August 2005 storm's impact.

- **David Evans** said he was not sure to whom the letter should be sent, but as he went into past Works agendas and found two reports on the storm, maybe they would provide a contact. He tabled copies of the reports.
- **John Hopkins** said that Highland Creek had a meeting last September devoted to the August 19 storm, as the plant sustained damage in the storm. **David Evans** indicated that he would locate the minutes and bring them to the next NLC meeting.

Action Item #2: David Evans to provide the ABTP NLC with the minutes from the Highland Creek Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee's September 2005 meeting at its next meeting.

Action Item #1 Meeting #70: *Karey Shinn and Karen Buck to identify for David Evans reports that they would like to have for the next meeting. David Evans will include these on the agenda for discussion.*

- **Karen Buck** said these were the yearly reports on the workings of the Eastern Retention Tanks and the Western Detention Tunnel, as well as the UV functioning at the Western Beaches Tunnel. These reports do not have titles, but these areas are regularly tested and monitored.
- **David Evans** said he would try to get a hold of these.
- In progress.

4.0 Odour Complaint Protocol

Karen Buck asked NLC members to think about the kind of odour complaint protocol that they would like to see implemented, and whether the current protocol is adequate. **David Evans** volunteered to facilitate a small workshop as part of a meeting agenda on this issue. He asked for a couple NLC members to help him develop the workshop.

Discussion:

- **Karen Buck** asked whether anyone knew of a model that they have researched or seen operating. **Jim Neff** said that resolution 9 of the Mediation Agreement states that the City will work with the NLC on the issue of odour control.
- **John Hopkins** asked whether a plant representative would be present at the workshop. **David Evans** said that one can be present if whomever he is working with to develop the workshop thinks it would be a good idea.

- **Karen Buck** said that she was on another odour control council and volunteered to work with David Evans to develop the workshop.
- **Jim Neff** suggested that someone could write an article or a letter to local media addressing the odour issues, in order to generate interest in the press. **Karen Buck** suggested that this could be done more cohesively after the workshop.

5.0 Mini-Updates

5.3 Progress on Landscaping Site Plan and Implementation

Karen Buck noted that Chris Krueger had wanted to discuss the status of testing and contamination at the skateboard park. **Chris Krueger** asked who was doing the testing on the skateboard park. **David Evans** explained that the project is being done by Parks, and is not an Ashbridges Bay initiative. **Karen Buck** suggested contacting Councillor Bussin's office to find out more information. She volunteered to assist him, if he emails her in a couple of weeks.

Chris Krueger asked where these sorts of reports usually go. **David Evans** said that sometimes they go on a website, but the best place to find them is the Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall. However, one often has to dig for them.

Karen Buck said that Jim Neff attended meetings about a contaminated area at the corner of Leslie. **Jim Neff** said that the South Riverdale Community Health Centre would have a copy of the annual report done on that area. **Karen Buck** said that it would be interesting to compare the two studies. She said that the skateboard area will likely be capped with a surfacing and therefore should not have a problem with contamination for people using the area. She told Chris Krueger to contact David McCully, Trish Nember, or Harold Becker in Councillor Bussin's office, and Paul Young at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre.

6.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting has been set for **Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 7:00 PM**, or sooner at the call of Councillor Sandra Bussin. The pre-meeting to discuss Works Committee agenda items will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.