



Staff Report

Report Title: Waste Management March 2024

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date: Mar. 4, 2024

Report Number: PW-2024-03-10

File Number: C11 PW 24

Attachments: Kinloss Shed Photo, Clean Farms Letter

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report PW-2024-03-10, prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

MECP Inspection

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) conducts annual inspections of the Huron and Kinloss Landfill sites, which typically results in several action items of areas that are not in compliance with our Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA).

The Ministry conducted an inspection of the Huron Landfill on July 25, 2023 and found several items that were deemed to be out of compliance.

Since this report was received, Township staff have been in contact with the Ministry and our consulting engineers, WSP Canada, to address these issues. The following is an update on the status of the action items:

Item # 1 - Disposal operations not being adequately or continually supervised.

This issue has now been resolved, as our garbage collection contractor is no longer disposing of waste at the Huron Landfill on Wednesdays when staff are not on site. They are still collecting curbside garbage on Wednesdays, but they are holding it until Thursday.

Item # 2 - Waste not compacted twice per day.

This issue has been resolved.

Item # 3 - Daily cover not applied adequately (Provincial Officer's Order)

Township staff continue to do our best to comply with this requirement. So far, the Ministry has been satisfied with the Township attempting to cover waste daily and document when cover is not applied and for what reason. We are also looking a cost effective options for improved compliance with this requirement.

Item # 4 - Stormwater Management Plan not fully constructed, and leachate collection tank not included in ECA. (Provincial Officer's Order)

Township staff had submitted a stormwater management work plan for review by the Ministry, but it was rejected. We have submitted a revised work plan that includes a stormwater runoff sampling program in March and April (when required) and applying topsoil and grass seed in areas that have final cover. We have not received a response at this time.

Township staff have also submitted an application to amend our ECA to include the leachate collection tank, which has benefited our operations, although we have altered our disposal schedule to reduce the cost of this program.

Item # 5 - Burning of brush and leaf and yard waste disposal area.

This issue has been resolved, although we will be looking the possibility of including this area in our ECA in the future.

Kinloss Landfill

The Kinloss Landfill is currently closed for the winter and is scheduled to reopen on April 6, 2024. In November 2023, a new shed that was provided by the Women in Carpentry program was delivered. The shed is 10 ft by 6 ft with a covered porch that is 4 ft by 10 ft (see attached photo).

Bruce County Agricultural Plastics Recovery Pilot Project

On Feb. 16, 2024, Township staff received the attached letter from Cleanfarms who operates the agricultural plastics recovery program at various landfills and farms within Bruce County. The letter notifies participating municipalities that federal funding for this program is ending on March 31st, 2024.

Discussion:MECP Inspection

Township staff have not received a response from the Ministry regarding the stormwater management plan as of Nov. 1st. The only operational improvement that we have committed to so far is the stormwater sampling program.

Kinloss Landfill

Township staff are pleased to have a structure that will provide staff working at the Kinloss Landfill protection from inclement weather. The shed still needs to be moved to its final location, which is the gravel area on the left side of the attached photo.

Bruce County Agricultural Plastics Recovery Pilot Project

Based on the information we have received so far; it appears that this program will be winding down in March 2024. Cleanfarms hosted an information meeting on Feb. 26th, however, Township staff were unable to attend. We have requested the minutes from this meeting, but have not received them at the time of writing this report.

Overall, the pilot program has been a success and it would be disappointing for it to not continue. As shown in the attached letter, Huron-Kinloss received significantly less agricultural plastics than other municipalities in Bruce County, so we won't be as impacted by this program ending as other municipalities. If we had to charge for the materials to fund the program, the amount of materials we receive would likely decline significantly.

Financial Impacts:

Landfill operations are included in the Operating Budget. There was no cost to the Township for the Kinloss Landfill shed.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an environmentally conscious community that is a good steward of our natural environment by using our resources wisely, and by being aware and taking responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, C.E.T., Director of Public Works

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer