



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Waste Management July 2022**

**Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works**

**Department: Public Works**

**Date: Jul. 4, 2022**

**Report Number: PW-2022-07-46**

**File Number: E07 LAN 22  
E07 INS 22  
E07 UNS 22**

**Attachments: Draft Letter**

---

### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report No. PW-2022-07-46, prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

### **Background:**

#### Huron Landfill Fence

The installation of a chain link fence along the north side of the Huron Landfill property was awarded to Royal Fence Inc. on May 16, 2022

#### 2022 Huron Landfill Inspection

The Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) conducts unannounced inspections of both Township landfill sites, normally once per year.

#### Unsorted Waste

The Township Consolidated Fees By-Law includes a tipping fee of \$210 for unsorted waste. Township staff define unsorted waste as any materials that can be diverted from the landfill but are instead disposed of in the landfill area.

## **Discussion:**

### Huron Landfill Fence

Township staff have been notified that the fence construction will begin the week of July 11, 2022.

### 2022 Huron Landfill Inspection

On May 10, 2022, the MECP conducted an inspection of the Huron Landfill site and concluded that the Township was not in compliance with our Certificate of Approval in two areas:

1. Insufficient litter collection around the site
2. Waste not properly covered

These are the two most difficult areas for Landfill staff to maintain compliance with Ministry expectations. The fact that the MECP issued fines to the Township for each infraction was surprising to staff; however, the MECP acknowledged that they witnessed two Township staff in the process of collecting litter along the north side of the property during the inspection.

The MECP was also previously notified that the Township has been working towards installing a fence to contain litter since 2020. Landfill staff also informed the MECP inspector that they were in the process of covering garbage when they arrived on site.

Although it could be argued that the Township has reasons to dispute the fines issued by the MECP, Township staff elected to plead guilty and pay the fines instead of incurring any legal expenses. There is a level of subjectivity as to whether the amount of litter and exposed waste is excessive or not.

As a result of this inspection, we are bringing in a contractor to help us to further reduce the working face of the landfill area and Community Services continue to deploy some of their summer students to assist with litter collection.

Township staff will be implementing procedures at the Huron Landfill that will include documentation of litter collection and interim cover application activities to provide better evidence that we are acting in compliance with the Ministry requirements.

### Unsorted Waste

Landfill staff have typically not applied the unsorted waste fee because we do not allow materials that can be recycled to be disposed of in the landfill area. Landfill space is too valuable for us to allow unsorted loads to be landfilled.

In recent years, staff are seeing a trend of customers either not knowing what is contained in their load or not accurately describing what is in their load. Landfill

staff are frequently having to try to remove materials such as scrap steel, mattresses clean wood and tires from the landfill area after a load is dumped that is supposed to be all household waste. This takes up considerable staff time and there are some materials that are nearly impossible to remove from the landfill area entirely.

Township staff are planning to notify all account holders in writing that we will be implementing a new procedure at the Huron Landfill which will apply the unsorted waste fee to any unsorted loads that the customer disposes of in the landfill area. This is intended to be a deterrent rather than Township approval for unsorted waste disposed of in the landfill area. The increased fee will, at the very least, provide compensation for the additional staff time required to remove the unsorted items. A draft letter is attached to the report.

We are specifying a start date of July 19, 2022 to provide local contractors sufficient time to notify their clients of this change.

**Financial Impacts:**

The 2022 Capital Budget includes \$150,000 for the construction of the fence at the Huron Landfill.

The MECP inspection resulted in fines totalling \$605.

**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