

City of Kingston Information Report to Council Report Number 21-154

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment &

Projects

Resource Staff: Brandon Forrest, Director Business, Real Estate & Environment

Date of Meeting: May 18, 2021

Subject: Update Regarding the Special Public Meeting at Environment,

Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee for

Transport Canada's Proposed Contaminated Sediment

Management Project for Kingston Inner Harbour

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Council's request to receive additional information regarding the federal government's proposed management of contaminated river sediments within the Kingston Inner Harbour. Staff have communicated Council's request for a public meeting to the project representatives at Transport Canada, Parks Canada, and Public Services and Procurement Canada and have received confirmation that they will attend meetings of the Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies (EITP) Committee and the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) to present information about the proposed sediment management project. Staff will work with the federal representatives on securing meeting dates and communicating these dates to Council and the public.

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Staff have also confirmed that the authors of the Royal Military College of Canada's 2014 report on Kingston Inner Harbour Contaminated Sediments are able to present an overview of their work to KEAF.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Community Services

Not required

Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Corporate Services Not required

Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston Not required

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer Not required

Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works

Not required

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Options/Discussion:

At the April 6, 2021 meeting of City Council, pursuant to Report Number 21-107, City Council deferred a recommendation to support in principle the federal government's proposed risk-based management of contaminated sediments within the Kingston Inner Harbour until additional information on the scientific rationale for the project and potential impacts to the environment could be received at a public meeting hosted by the EITP Committee. The motion to defer, passed at the April 6, 2021 Council meeting, was as follows:

That Clause 4 of Report Number 40, received from the CAO (Recommend), be deferred until a special public meeting is hosted by the Environment Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee and that Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum and a representative(s) from Transport Canada be invited to discuss the plan as Transport Canada knows it today for the Kingston Inner Harbour including the effects on drinking water for human consumption, recreational swimming, fish, and wildlife.

Staff have communicated Council's request to the federal departments in charge of the proposed sediment management project (Transport Canada, Parks Canada, and Public Services and Procurement Canada). Transport Canada has confirmed that they are willing to attend meetings of both the EITP Committee and KEAF to present information about their proposed contaminated sediment management plan for the Kingston Inner Harbour and the steps that remain before detailed project designs and implementation plans can take place.

Additionally, City staff will be providing information to KEAF so that they are able to provide their opinion with respect to the proposed sediment management project. The representative from RMC who will attend KEAF was one of the primary authors of a report published in 2014 that examined the environmental condition of the Kingston Inner Harbour sediments, assessed levels of risk to humans and the environment associated with contaminated sediments and made recommendations for management actions to reduce unacceptable risk levels. The representative from RMC will provide KEAF with an overview of their work on the 2014 report. The KEAF meeting will be scheduled to take place before the special meeting of the EITP Committee.

City staff have received several requests for access to the 2014 RMC report from members of the public. As this is not a City report, staff consulted with Transport Canada, Parks Canada, and Public Services and Procurement Canada before making the report available. City staff have made the report available in electronic format for distribution upon request. The public may request access by contacting City staff at pmaclatchy@cityofkingston.ca. The 2014 RMC report is large and not available in an accessible format and therefore has not been attached to this information report or posted on the City's website. Council has been provided with access to an electronic copy.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Exhibits Attached:

None

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Notice Provisions:
None
Accessibility Considerations:
None
Financial Considerations:
None
Contacts:
Paul MacLatchy, Environment Director 613-546-4291 extension 1226
Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:
Holly Wilson, Manager Intergovernmental Relations