



**Environment Committee**

**Minutes 3**

**Tuesday, 19 May 2015**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Champlain Room**

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- Notes:**
1. *Please note that the Minutes are to be considered DRAFT until confirmed by Committee.*
  2. *Underlining indicates a new or amended recommendation approved by Committee.*
  3. *Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on 27 May 2015 in Environment Committee Report No. 3.*

**Present:** Chair: Councillor D. Chernushenko  
Vice-Chair: Councillor R. Chiarelli  
Councillors: R. Brockington, J. Cloutier, J. Leiper,  
C. McKenney, J. Mitic, S. Moffatt, M. Qaqish, M. Taylor

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes 2, of the Environment Committee meeting of Tuesday, 21 April 2015, were confirmed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Response to Inquiry

- EC 01-15 - Sewer Lining Work

**CITY OPERATIONS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

1. 2014 WASTEWATER ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

ACS2015-COS-ESD-0010

CITY WIDE

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**REPORT RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Environment Committee receive this report for information.**

Staff requested that Committee consider the following staff-initiated Motion as a technical amendment to correct minor errors in the body of both the transmittal, and actual 2014 Wastewater Annual Compliance Reports.

**MOTION N<sup>o</sup> EC 02/01**

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington:

**WHEREAS the 2014 Wastewater Annual Compliance report (ACS2015-COS-ESD-0010) contains some erroneous figures that were not discovered until after the publication of the Environment Committee agenda;**

**AND WHEREAS these figures have since been corrected as reflected in the attached amended Staff Report and amended Document 1;**

**AND WHEREAS these changes do not in any way impact Wastewater Services compliance with applicable environmental legislation;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Environment Committee receive the 2014 Wastewater Annual Compliance report, as amended.**

Mr. Dixon Weir, General Manager, Environmental Services Department, spoke to a detailed PowerPoint slide presentation which served as an overview of the report. A copy of this presentation is held on file with the City Clerk. Following the presentation, Committee discussions, and questions to staff touched upon matters that included but were not limited to:

- Sewage overflow incidents, reasons for equipment failure, storage tank capacities, sewer maintenance, gas venting and reporting requirements;
- The Ottawa River Action Plan and the City's efforts towards the development of a cooperative water environment strategy with the City of Gatineau.

Discussions having concluded, the Committee 'Carried' the above Motion, following which, the report recommendation was put before Committee and the report was 'Received', as amended by Motion N<sup>o</sup> EC 02/01.

**That the Environment Committee receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED, as amended

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
CITY TREASURER AND FINANCE**

2. WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER RATE STRUCTURE REVIEW  
ACS2015-CMR-FIN-0025 CITY WIDE
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**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That the Environment Committee recommends Council:**

- 1. Direct staff to return to Council by Q1 2016 with an updated water, wastewater, and stormwater rate structure for Council's consideration and;**
  
- 2. Approve that the overall guiding principles, in order of importance, for this review are as follows:**
  - a) Is fair and equitable to users of the service;**
  - b) Increases financial sustainability;**
  - c) Ensures that the basic level of consumption is affordable for residential customers;**
  - d) Is transparent and understandable;**
  - e) Preserves conservation;**
  - f) Supports Economic Development.**

The Committee received a detailed PowerPoint slide presentation overview of the report from Ms. Marian Simulik, City Treasurer. A copy of this presentation is held on file with the City Clerk.

The Committee then heard from the following individuals, as noted:

- Mr. Erwin Dreessen\*, Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital, spoke in general support of the report, but noted that considerations of cost, terms of reference for the project and up-front public consultations were missing.
- Mr. Graham Saul, Executive Director, Ecology Ottawa, spoke in support of the City's innovative ways of moving forward with its environmental strategies, but cautioned that water conservation should also be emphasized.

*[ \* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions are held on file with the City Clerk. ]*

Following the Committee's receipt of the delegations, Ms. Simulik responded to questions from Committee that touched on, but were not necessarily limited to:

- Upgrade capabilities of the City's existing utility systems resulting from the introduction of new billing software;
- The proper accounting of profit-based use of the City's water systems by different users [e.g., the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector];
- Financial sustainability as a key factor in the determination of an updated water, wastewater, and stormwater rate structure;
- Staff's ability to provide background and rationale for the recommendations that will return to Committee and Council in the first quarter of 2016;
- Consideration of different modelling and administrative systems, and of working in tandem with the Planning and Growth Management Department on environmentally responsible designs, to lead to lower stormwater runoff, and;
- Staff's recommended prioritization of the report's suggested guiding principles.

Following Committee discussions that touched on many of the points in Ms. Simulik's presentation, Councillor Brockington introduced the following Motion for the Committee's consideration:

**MOTION N<sup>o</sup> EC 02/02**

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington:

**That the Environment Committee approve that the words "*in order of importance*" be removed from Recommendation 2, which currently reads, "Approve that the overall guiding principles, in order of importance, for this review are as follows:"**

Committee considered the relative merits of prioritizing the guiding principles outlined in the recommendation and following deliberations, opted to 'Carry' the above Motion. Discussions having concluded, the recommendations were put before Committee and were 'Carried', as amended by Motion N<sup>o</sup> EC 02/02:

**That the Environment Committee recommends Council:**

1. **Direct staff to return to Council by Q1 2016 with an updated water, wastewater, and stormwater rate structure for Council's consideration and;**
  
2. **Approve that the overall guiding principles for this review are as follows:**
  - a) **Is fair and equitable to users of the service;**
  - b) **Increases financial sustainability;**
  - c) **Ensures that the basic level of consumption is affordable for residential customers;**
  - d) **Is transparent and understandable;**
  - e) **Preserves conservation;**
  - f) **Supports Economic Development.**

CARRIED, as amended

INQUIRIES

**COUNCILLOR J. LEIPER**

What reporting options are available and on what frequency to inform Council and residents about the operation of the Urban Tree Conservation by-law, including number of tree removal permits, number applied for, number rejected, and the regulatory basis for granting removal permits under the by-law on a ward-by-ward basis. What impediments, if any, are there to reporting this information to Council on a quarterly or semi-annual basis?

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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**Committee Coordinator**

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**Chair**