Minute No. 584
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – October 3, 2019

Item No. 1 Testing of the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment Process for Phosphorus Removal

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to, within the next four months, do all things necessary to begin the testing not limited to, the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment process, including phosphorus reduction alternate 2 and 6 from the AECOM report and report back to the Standing Policy Committee.

2. That, upon review of the Standing Policy Committee, the process to reduce the current phosphorus levels as recommended in the results of testing, be implemented as an interim phosphorus reduction solution at North End Sewage Treatment Plant within fourteen months, until the permanent upgrades come online.

3. That all costs associated with the project be found within existing resources.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be adopted.

His Worship Mayor Bowman called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 16

Nay: 0

and the motion for the adoption of the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 8, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 3, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment concurred in the Council Motion of September 26, 2019, with the following amendments:

- Delete Recommendation 1 in its entirety and replace with the following:

  "1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to, within the next four months, do all things necessary to begin the testing not limited to, the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment process, including phosphorus reduction alternate 2 and 6 from the AECOM report and report back to the Standing Policy Committee;"

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

- Delete Recommendation 2 in its entirety and replace with the following:

    "2. That, upon review of the Standing Policy Committee, the process to reduce the current phosphorus levels as recommended in the results of testing, be implemented as an interim phosphorus reduction solution at North End Sewage Treatment Plant within fourteen months, until the permanent upgrades come online;"

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Dudley Thompson submitted a presentation dated October 4, 2019, in support of the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 26, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) identifies the North End Sewage Treatment Plant (the Plant) as *"the single largest point source of phosphorus flowing into Lake Winnipeg and the fourth largest phosphorus polluter among all wastewater treatment facilities in Canada";*

AND WHEREAS the total phosphorus in the Plant's effluent is on average 3.5 times higher than the provincially mandated targets of 1 milligram per litre (mg/L), which the City of Winnipeg must meet by Dec. 31, 2019;

AND WHEREAS the latest estimated costs to fully upgrade the Plant, is $1.789 billion, and nutrient-reduction efforts are not projected to start for at least another 10 years;

AND WHEREAS the IISD has suggested that in the interim, a simple adjustment to the timing and dose of ferric chloride in the sewage treatment process (Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment) could achieve a 70% reduction of phosphorus in the Plant's effluent at an approximate cost of $3 million for construction upgrades and $2 million in annual operating costs;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS in a letter to the Acting Director and Assistant Deputy Minister of Manitoba Sustainable Development dated July 30, 2019, the City of Winnipeg confirmed that although the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment process would not achieve the 1 mg/L effluent requirement, *"some chemical phosphorous removal… may be possible"* with *"minimal construction;"*

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Public Service has advised that they intend on testing various options to reduce phosphorus including the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to immediately test Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment process identified by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and provide results to Council.

2. That if this process is proven to reduce the current phosphorus levels, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to implement the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment process as an interim phosphorus reduction solution at North End Sewage Treatment Plant within six to eight months, until the permanent upgrades come online;

3. That all costs associated with the project be found within existing resources.