Agenda – Council – September 29, 2021

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – September 13, 2021

Item No. 5 Grants or Partnerships for the Study and Establishment of Greenhouse Gas Offset Operations

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 21, 2021, 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 following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to seek out grants and or partnerships to study and establish greenhouse gas offset operations, where viable, on any of the City's 33 closed landfill sites, and report back to the Standing Committee in 90 days.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – September 13, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 21, 2021, 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 September 13, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment considered the Council Motion of June 24, 2021, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to seek out grants and or partnerships to study and establish greenhouse gas offset operations, where viable, on any of the City's 33 closed landfill sites, and report back to the Standing Committee in 90 days.

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

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 24, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS the Brady Road Resource Management Facility has the ability to burn off methane gas from the land fill, and produce compost from a new compostable collection program, but the 33 closed landfill sites around Winnipeg don't necessarily have the ability to burn off methane that is constantly monitored;

AND WHEREAS green house gas emissions offsets are used to reduce climate change effects on an organization's inability to directly reduce greenhouse gases from operations;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – September 13, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's climate change plans identify landfill gases contribute to difficulties in reducing our climate change footprint;

AND WHEREAS producing solar energy have less of an environmental impact, basically zero emissions from operating the solar array or farm, and can be located in places easily where sun can be harnessed while hydro has a larger environmental impact with some emissions from operating in distant places where the right water conditions exist;

AND WHEREAS The "CLOSED LANDFILLS IN THE CITY OF WINNIPEG", a presentation to SPC On WWRME on May 29, 2017, didn't include ideas on green house gas emission offsets, but it provided important information about the status and land use of the 33 closed landfills in the following reports:

September 2015, Landfill Status Report for Closed Landfills
October 2015, Landfill Environmental Risk Report for Closed Landfills
December 2015, Landfill Rehabilitation and Cost Estimate Report
December, 2015, WINNIPEG LANDFILL LAND USE POTENTIAL REPORT

AND WHEREAS the above reports, at first read, show the potential for solar and wind electricity offsets to have a higher potential to be built at closed landfill sites in or near industrial areas of the city where existing electrical grids exist;

AND WHEREAS other levels of government have potential funds to help reduce a city's green house gas footprint;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service seek out grants and or partnerships to study and establish green house gas offset operations where viable on any of our 33 closed landfill sites.