Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 16, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 1, 2023

Item No. 4 Requesting Amendments to Phosphorus Compliance in Phase Three of the North End Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 1, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of April 27, 2023, be received as information.

Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 16, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 1, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 1, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Council Motion of April 27, 2023, be received as information.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On April 27, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS in 2003 the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission report on Lake Winnipeg nutrients stated that is was "building on scientific knowledge";

AND WHEREAS both the 2003 report and the 2009 review of that report called for the City of Winnipeg to undertake nitrogen removal as part of its nutrient removal requirements, a requirement reflected in Provincial licence which remains in force;

AND WHEREAS in order to meet the requirements for nitrogen removal, the cost estimate for Phase 3 of the North End Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade was estimated at $828 million as of 2020;

AND WHEREAS building on more recent scientific knowledge than that cited in the 2003 report seriously questions the utility and cost-effectiveness of removing nitrogen;

AND WHEREAS the City and the Province recently announced a task force led by elected officials to expedite completion of work at the North End Sewage Treatment Plant;

AND WHEREAS information pertaining to nitrogen removal was published by IISD Experimental Lakes Area Inc. in a 2017 article titled "Biological Nitrogen Fixation Prevents the Response of a Eutrophic Lake to Reduced Loading of Nitrogen: Evidence from a 46-Year Whole-Lake Experiment" (attached as Appendix A);

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – May 1, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS in a letter dated April 26, 2023 (attached as Appendix B), the Lake Winnipeg Foundation has offered support for this initiative;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That prior to funding commitments being made for Phase 3 of the North End Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade, Council request the Provincial Task Force to undertake the following:

    A. Amend the licence to require phosphorus compliance in Phase 3: and

    B. Complete a review of current scientific knowledge to determine whether it is desirable to proceed with the nitrogen removal components for Phase 3 of the project.

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