



To: **Committee of the Whole**

Agenda Section: Corporate Services
Division: Engineering, Planning and Environment
Department: Solid Waste Management

Item Number: CCW - 17-038

Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

Subject: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – Project Update

Recommendation

That Item CCW 17-038, dated January 24, 2017, regarding the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – Project Update, be received.

Executive Summary

Further to *Item CCW 16-376 – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – Project Update* (November 8, 2016), Planning and procurement of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) has been advanced. The purpose of this Item is to provide:

- details regarding the Planning process being furthered to amend both the County and local Official Plan and zoning for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater;
- information on a Request for Information (RFI) and preparations on the preliminary business case for organics management options; and
- a revised Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document and correspondence received (including County responses).

Development of the ERRC at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater, will require a County Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and local Official Plan (OP) and Zoning By-law amendments. Applications and the required technical studies were submitted to the Township of Springwater on November 18, 2016. Notification that the Township deemed the applications complete was received on December 16, 2016, triggering the 180-day period to review the applications and provide a decision (as outlined in the Planning Act). County Planning staff continue to work with the Township on furthering the Planning process, which will include a review of technical studies and consultation.

The first procurement opportunity related to development of the Organics Processing Facility (OPF), a Request for Information (RFI), was issued in late November and closed on January 13, 2017. The purpose of *RFI 2016-127 – Organics Management Options* was to gather information on alternatives for processing of the County's source-separated organics.

Alternatives for organics processing, including development of a County-owned facility, will be assessed in a preliminary business case set to be presented this spring. Further details are provided in this Item on the consulting team, Ernst & Young Orenda Corporate Finance Inc., recently retained to undertake this work.

Background/Analysis/Options

The purpose of this Item is to provide an update on development of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) – including information on the Planning process, preparations for the preliminary business case for organics management options, and correspondence recently received on this project.

Previous staff reports regarding development of these facilities, consultants' technical reports, communication material from public information and consultation sessions, and minutes of Community Engagement Committee meetings can be found at www.simcoe.ca/errc.

Planning Applications

On November 18, 2016, applications were submitted to the Township of Springwater to further the required local Official Plan (OP) and Zoning By-law amendments for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. These applications and a County-initiated County Official Plan Amendment (OPA) will now follow the process as outlined in the Planning Act following notification from the Township on December 16, 2016 that the applications to the Township have been deemed complete. As outlined in the Act, the Township will now have 180-days to review the applications and provide a decision.

The following technical studies are posted on the County's Planning webpage (a link is also provided at www.simcoe.ca/errc) and for reference, a summary of the various studies, key words, and description of each is provided as Schedule 1.

- Planning Justification Report
- Agricultural Impact Assessment Report
- Scoped Environmental Impact Study (includes Hazard Land Assessment)
- Facility Characteristics Report (includes Conceptual Site Plan, Functional Servicing Study, Stormwater Management Study, Noise Assessment, Odour Assessment)
- Hydrogeological Assessment
- Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment
- Stage 3 Site Specific Archaeological Assessment
- Stage 3 Site Specific Archaeological Assessment – Supplementary Documentation
- Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment: Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
- Traffic Impact Assessment

Notification was provided by e-mail to the project contact list on December 22, 2016 and update letters sent to the 500 m neighbouring landowners on December 28, 2016 as follow-up. As the project is now in the Planning approvals stage, questions regarding the applications and/or the forthcoming Planning process are being referred to the County's Planning Department at errc@simcoe.ca. Being sensitive to the legalities of this process outlined in the Planning Act, smaller meetings with 500 m landowners will be on hold in the interim during this project phase. Notices regarding formal public consultation opportunities will be posted at the appropriate time, as per the Planning Act.

The required information will be provided to the appropriate ministries, agencies, and Aboriginal communities for their respective review and comment. Consultation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), and Township of Springwater and County Planning staff has been on-going and will continue as site-specific studies are reviewed.

Organics Processing Facility Development

Request for Information

On November 30, 2016, the first procurement document related to development of the Organics Processing Facility (OPF), *RFI 2016-127 – Organics Management Options*, was posted on the County's procurement website www.biddingo.com/simcoe. This document was also available on the ERRC webpage and notification sent to the project contact list on December 9, 2016. This opportunity closed on January 13, 2016.

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) was to gather information on alternatives for processing of the County's source-separated organics. These alternatives will be assessed in a preliminary business case which will examine the various options for organics processing available to the County at this time – including development of an Organics Processing Facility (OPF) at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. The preliminary business case, to be presented to County Council in spring 2017, is anticipated to assess alternatives such as Design-Build-Operate (DBO) arrangements for aerobic composting or anaerobic digestion facilities at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, available merchant capacity, or other Design-Build-Own-Operate (DBOO) options (this will be dependent on submissions to the RFI).

This RFI follows similar methodology to work completed for the 2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy and furthered in the initial viability study for the OPF undertaken in 2012. As some time has passed – and as a measure of prudence – organics management options will be re-examined in the preliminary business case.

Preliminary Business Case

As outlined in previous staff reports and the Development Strategy for the ERRC, it is anticipated that the business case for the OPF will be developed in two parts as follows:

Request for Information (RFI) – Organics Management Options (closed January 2017)



Preliminary Business Case – Organics Management Options (spring 2017)



Direction from County Council on preferred alternative



Request for Pre-qualification (RFPQ) – Organics Processing Technology
(following receipt of Planning approvals)



Request for Proposal (RFP) – Organics Processing Technology
(following RFPQ evaluation)



Final Business Case – development of County of Simcoe Organics Processing Facility
(following evaluation of proposals submitted in response to RFP)

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for consulting services related to development of the preliminary and final business case was posted in November 2016. The objectives of this series of consulting tasks is to determine the business and operational impact, risk, and cost/benefit of various

organics management options, including development of a County-owned facility. *RFP 2016-131 – Consulting Services – Organics Management Business Case* resulted in the submission of three proposals. These proposals were subsequently evaluated by a staff committee (consisting of representatives from the County's Finance and Solid Waste Management Departments, overseen by the Procurement team) on criteria related to both the firm and proposed project team's experience in business case preparation (specific to waste management and/or organics processing infrastructure), public sector projects, and stakeholder consultation.

The scoring, as outlined in the RFP document, was based 85% on the Proponent's technical proposal (850 points available) and 15% on the financial proposal (150 points available). Predefined scoring criteria for the technical proposal was quite rigorous and included points for experience related to financial assessment, forecasting, risk assessment, cost/benefit analysis, expertise in capital project planning (noting projects undertaken for the public sector utilizing various project delivery methods), business case preparation, and knowledge of Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards.

The proponent with the highest overall score was Ernst & Young Orenda Corporate Finance Inc. (EY). The Canadian firm, established in 1864, employs approximately 5,000 people nationally. As indicated in their proposal, a team of specialized Infrastructure Advisory (IA) professionals have deep experience in and knowledge of capital markets and infrastructure and provide independent advice to clients on the procurement process, structuring, risk, and strategic and financial aspects of major infrastructure transactions. Their team has extensive experience – including financial analysis/business case work on similar waste management projects. This includes the City of Surrey Organic Biofuel Processing Facility, various City of Toronto assignments (including their mechanical biological treatment – anaerobic digestion mixed waste processing facility), the Region of Durham integrated waste management system anaerobic digestion facility, and the Region of Peel anaerobic digestion facility.

Submitted Correspondence

As noted in *Item CCW 16-191 – Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects – Public/Stakeholder Engagement Update* (May 24, 2016) comments and questions regarding these projects may be submitted via the project webpages or sent directly to staff and/or members of County Council. In response to recent correspondence received, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document has been updated (Get the Facts, January 2017) and, for reference, included in this item as Schedule 2. This includes responses to questions regarding the Waste Free Ontario Act and fire safety and additional wording to include specific reference to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). In addition, correspondence sent in response to and the various letters and e-mails received by the Warden has been provided as Schedule 3 (from August 27, 2016 to January 6, 2017). This process of recording and presenting correspondence will be maintained as the projects progress.

Financial and Resource Implications

To date, approximately \$220,000 and \$475,000 has been spent on development of the Organics Processing Facility (OPF) and the Materials Management Facility (MMF) projects, respectively (to end of November 2016). Costs associated with the preliminary and final business case for the OPF, anticipated to be \$232,196, have been previously budgeted.

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

In regard to long-term processing of organics, the Solid Waste Management Strategy (Strategy) recommended development of a centralized composting facility within the County. Public input indicated support for in-County processing as well as for the addition of pet waste and diapers to the program. This item also supports the Strategy recommendation to develop transfer capacity infrastructure to manage garbage and recyclables generated within the County.

Reference Documents

- Item CCW 16-191 (May 24, 2016) Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects – Public/Stakeholder Engagement Update
- Item CCW 16-376 (November 8, 2016) Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – Project Update

Attachments

Schedule 1 – Summary of Technical Studies – 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater

Schedule 2 – Updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Get the Facts, January 2017

Schedule 3 – Correspondence (from August 27, 2016 to January 6, 2017)



for CCW 17-038
Schedule 1.pdf



for CCW 17-038
Schedule 2.pdf



for CCW 17-038
Schedule 3.pdf

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January 9, 2017
January 16, 2017
January 16, 2017
January 17, 2017

County of Simcoe
Environmental Resource Recovery Centre

Summary of Technical Studies – 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater (to November 2016)

Report Name	Date	Author	Keywords	Description/Methodology
Planning Justification Report	November 17, 2016	GHD Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning rationale• Planning justification• Provincial Policy Statement• Planning policy• summary of studies• Official Plan• zoning	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Planning Justification Report</i> (page i):</p> <p><i>This Planning Justification Report assesses the proposed site location in the context of governing planning policy especially the Provincial Policy Statement and the Official Plans of the Country of Simcoe and Township of Springwater. Official Plan amendments are required to both of the Official Plan documents.</i></p> <p><i>The Planning Justification Report is part of the overall documentation/ information prepared for the proposed ERRC planning application. Therefore, this report should be read in conjunction with other supporting documentation, which are described in the body of this Report.</i></p>
Agricultural Impact Assessment Report	November 16, 2016	AgPlan Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• agricultural characteristics• soil capability• soil potential and climate• Minimum Distance Separation (MDS)• soil productivity	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Agricultural Impact Assessment Report</i> (page 1):</p> <p><i>The general objective of the study was to assess:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the agricultural characteristics of the lands proposed to be used for the Simcoe ERRC and whether the proposed use has an agricultural impact based on the wording of policy.</i> <p><i>In reaching this objective the following work was completed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>An assessment of the soils which relate to the planned use of the lands generally and which provide context to soils on the Simcoe ERRC;</i>• <i>An analysis of the soil capability for common field crops as well as the soil potential of lands for specialty crops within the Simcoe ERRC;</i>• <i>An analysis of the agricultural land use within and around the Simcoe ERRC;</i>• <i>Analyses to put the agricultural characteristics of Simcoe County and Springwater Township in context.</i>

Summary of Technical Studies – 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater (to November 2016) *continued*

Report Name	Date	Author	Keywords	Description/Methodology
Scoped Environmental Impact Study Report includes: Hazard Land Assessment	November 17, 2016	GHD Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Heritage Features• Ecological Land Classification• wildlife• habitat• Species at Risk• vegetation communities• forest• wetlands• environmental impact• Hazard Land	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Scoped Environmental Impact Study & Hazard Land Assessment</i> (page I):</p> <p><i>The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the scoping of the EIS were prepared in consultation with Simcoe County (County), Township of Springwater, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The Scoped EIS was completed in accordance with the requirements of the Simcoe County Official Plan (OP) as approved in 2016 by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).</i></p> <p><i>Secondary source natural heritage information was collected and used to guide field activities. Field investigations were conducted in 2016 and included wetland boundary delineation, verification of watercourse presence, vegetation inventory, calling amphibian surveys, breeding bird surveys, and incidental wildlife observations. NVCA verified wetland boundary delineations were field delineated and mapped. The field data was used to assign Ecological Land Classification (ELC) units to the vegetation units present, and describe the available habitats and natural features of the Study Area for a total of seven upland and four wetland ELC units. Unique within the Study Area is an oldergrowth hemlock stand, which is present in the southeast corner.</i></p>
Facility Characteristics Report Report includes: Conceptual Site Plan Functional Servicing Study Stormwater Management Study Noise Assessment Odour Assessment	November 17, 2016	GHD Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• site plan• functional servicing• stormwater management• noise modeling• odour modeling• site layout• permitting• site access• required approvals• buffer distances• setbacks	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Planning Justification Report</i> (pages 34, 35):</p> <p><i>A description of the Site based on the findings from these and other additional studies is provided, as are details surrounding the siting and sizing of the ERRC footprint, components, proposed layout, and the provision of Site servicing. An overall development strategy is also presented, outlining the anticipated approach and staging/timing of procurement, Site Plan approval, building permits, construction, and operations.</i></p> <p><i>Preliminary details have also been provided on how the ERRC will obtain environmental compliance approval (ECA) from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), and how regulations surrounding the management of stormwater, noise, and odour will be met.</i></p>

Summary of Technical Studies – 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater (to November 2016) *continued*

Report Name	Date	Author	Keywords	Description/Methodology
Hydrogeological Assessment	November 15, 2016	GHD Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hydrogeology• groundwater• surface water• monitoring wells• soil• boreholes• drilling	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Planning Justification Report</i> (page 35):</p> <p><i>The objective of this assessment was to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess current groundwater conditions, including quantification of potential impacts to the local groundwater regime (quality and quantity), and groundwater supply for the development.• Identify hydrologically-sensitive features for recharge/discharge function protection (i.e., wetlands and/or watercourses).• A water balance analysis to estimate the groundwater recharge potential at the Site, under predevelopment and proposed post development conditions.• Determine the requirement and options for groundwater control during construction and required approvals. <p><i>It should be noted that areas designated under the Source Water Protection Plan were avoided.</i></p>
Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment – Supplementary Documentation	November 16, 2017 November 11, 2017 November 11, 2017	ASI – Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archaeology• historical context• test pits• pioneer homestead• archaeological find• artifacts• Gribbin site• Stage 4 mitigation	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Planning Justification Report</i> (page 36):</p> <p><i>ASI completed the required archaeological assessments, as required, in order to ensure avoidance of any archaeological finds. Development of the Site is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on groundwater or surface. A Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment identified a particular area in close proximity to the proposed ERRC and therefore, a Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment was undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>The site was subject to the excavation of one meter square test units over the locations of positive Stage 2 test pits. Test unit excavation began September 12, 2016 and continued until September 16, 2016. Thirty-two one-metre test units were excavated over an area approximately 40 m E-W by 40 m N-S. A total of 1,726 Euro-Canadian historical artifacts was recovered during the Stage 3 assessment of this site. One potential feature was documented.</i></p> <p><i>Archival research supported by the recovered artifact assemblage and excavation indicates that the Gribbin site represents a mid-nineteenth century Euro-Canadian archaeological resource with cultural heritage value or interest. The County has demonstrated that they are willing to protect the Gribbin site from further impacts. The County did so by shifting the ERRC footprint to avoid the Gribbin site altogether.</i></p>

Summary of Technical Studies – 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater (to November 2016) *continued*

Report Name	Date	Author	Keywords	Description/Methodology
Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment: Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	August 2016 (Revised November 2016)	ASI – Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural Heritage• stone foundation• Apto (St. Patrick's) Cemetery• farmstead	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment</i> (page 2):</p> <p><i>For the purposes of this assessment, the term cultural heritage resources was used to describe both cultural heritage landscapes and built heritage resources. A cultural landscape is perceived as a collection of individual built heritage resources and other related features that together form farm complexes, roadscares and nucleated settlements. Built heritage resources are typically individual buildings or structures that may be associated with a variety of human activities, such as historical settlement and patterns of architectural development.</i></p>
Traffic Impact Assessment	November 2016	MMM Group Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• traffic• Horseshoe Valley Road• road improvements• level of service (LOS)• site access	<p>Excerpt from the <i>Traffic Impact Assessment</i> (page 4):</p> <p><i>The main objectives of this study are to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Evaluate if there are any adverse impacts on the local road network related to the proposed ERRC, primarily the MMF and OPF since the “Other” component is not expected to generate much, if any, additional traffic;</i>• <i>Evaluate the proposed site access location in terms of compliance with the requirement for stopping sight distance;</i>• <i>Determine the intersection control type for the site access; and</i>• <i>Identify the lane configurations for the site access.</i>



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

2976 HORSESHOE VALLEY ROAD WEST
SPRINGWATER

GET THE FACTS

JANUARY 2017



General Information

What is the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre?

There are two main facilities to be co-located at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – a Materials Management Facility (MMF) and an Organics Processing Facility (OPF).

- Materials Management Facility (MMF) – a location for consolidation and transfer of waste (garbage, blue box recycling, and organics) from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations.
- Organics Processing Facility (OPF) – a location where green bin material (kitchen waste, soiled paper products, etc.) and potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products are processed under controlled conditions and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.
- Other – additional developments at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (on the 4.5 ha development envelope) include a Solid Waste Management truck servicing area, a public education area, and the potential for future expansion to a recycling sorting facility (Materials Recovery Facility).

Why is this facility being developed?

Through the 2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy, we listened to residents as Simcoe County spoke strongly about no new landfills. We are now undertaking this process to do the right thing to enhance our diversion programs and improve services for our residents. This facility will offer a solution to securely manage our own waste, control transfer and processing costs, and help to reduce our waste disposal by creating our own processing capacity. It will bring added environmental benefits such as reducing the number of trucks hauling County organics long distances for processing, the ability to add materials to our green bin program, and creation of valuable end products such as compost or fertilizer to support local agricultural initiatives.

What is a “co-located” facility?

During the siting process, the County’s consultant determined there was potential that both the OPF and MMF could be located on one common site and share infrastructure. This co-located facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, would include a building with areas for receiving garbage and recycling and truck servicing and, in addition, there would be

an on-site area for processing of organics. There would be common administration space, shared scale facilities, and shared storage. As added benefit, this site could also house a Solid Waste Management truck servicing area, public education area, and a potential future Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

Is this a landfill?

No. Assessing development of the OPF and MMF were recommended in the County’s Solid Waste Management Strategy as a result of County Council’s direction that no new landfills would be developed. This infrastructure will support the County’s diversion initiatives and transfer of wastes for export to processing and disposal locations.

Will this facility become a landfill?

No. Current direction from County Council on how the County manages garbage is outlined in the 2010 Solid Waste Management Strategy. The Council-approved direction is for export of the County’s garbage – and no development of new landfills.

Will garbage or recycling be processed or sorted at these facilities?

Garbage and blue box recycling taken to the facility will be transferred from our collection trucks into larger trailers for processing/disposal outside of the County. Funding for the MMF is contingent, however, on a recycling sorting facility (a Materials Recovery Facility or MRF) potentially being developed here in the future. This has been considered in the anticipated footprint for the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre. Organics accepted in the County’s green bin program and potentially leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products will be processed into products such as compost or fertilizer.

Will this facility accept waste from other municipalities?

The Environmental Resource Recovery Centre will be designed to accommodate current County needs and future growth. In the interim, there would be potential capacity to accept some source-separated organics and recycling from other jurisdictions such as the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. This would offset some of the County’s costs.

General Information cont'd

What would be the size of this facility?

The development envelope of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre is approximately 11 acres (4.5 hectares). This will include buildings, paved areas around them, and storage. Only a portion of the property, which is 207 acres (84 hectares), will be required for the infrastructure itself, allowing for preservation of the forested areas, appropriate screening, and significant buffer distance from neighbouring residences.

How many organics processing facilities are there in Ontario?

There are approximately 20 facilities processing municipal source-separated organics in Ontario – including facilities located in Guelph, Peel, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston, and Ottawa.

Will further studies be made public?

Yes. As with previous consultants' reports for these projects, they will be made public and available at simcoe.ca. A link to technical studies posted on the County's Planning webpage is provided at simcoe.ca/errc.

Will there be future meetings for the public regarding the facility?

Yes. Consultation is an important component of this project. As we move forward, we are planning for public consultation/information sessions at key milestones, including meetings related to the Planning Act process.

Where does curbside material currently go now? What happens to this material?

Garbage is currently landfilled at County sites, with the majority of curbside garbage being exported to an energy-from-waste facility in Brampton. Organics are hauled to Hamilton for processing. Recycling containers (blue box) are hauled to Guelph, recycling paper (grey box) to Toronto for sorting. Leaf and yard waste and Christmas trees are processed at County facilities.

Where are we in the process? What's next?

The siting process was completed in March 2016 with direction provided by County Council to develop a co-located facility at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. The project is moving forward with the Planning approvals process. Project information and studies will be reviewed by the appropriate agencies. Technology procurement, construction, and commissioning are set

to follow this process. Upcoming milestones include:

- Planning approvals process (2017)
- Request for Information for organics management options (closes January 2017)
- Preparation of preliminary business case (Spring 2017)

How will the Waste Free Ontario Act impact this facility?

The facility will still be necessary under the new regulatory structure. Management of garbage and organics are anticipated to still be the responsibility of the municipality and this facility is necessary for the transfer of curbside and facilities garbage with the closure of County landfills (anticipated to occur between 2023 and 2025). In regard to blue box recyclables, it is anticipated that any changes to the provincial system will take years to be fully implemented and the County will still be responsible for the collection and transfer of these materials in the interim, beyond the anticipated 5.5 year payback period of the MMF. A CIF study determined that there is a shortage of blue box transfer capacity locally. The MMF capacity, therefore, can be utilized by whomever is responsible for recyclables management in the future, generating revenue for the County, or the County can utilize excess capacity to divert other materials. The County has secured CIF funding of up to \$2,187,840 for the facility regardless of the status of the legislation.

In regard to organics, the province has been quite clear that the Waste Free Ontario Act will focus on diversion of more waste from disposal and this will be accomplished, in part, by developing an Organics Action Plan to reduce the volume of organic material going to landfill. As a result, it is anticipated that the Waste Free Ontario Act will increase demand for organics processing capacity. Development of this infrastructure secures capacity for the County's material and allows space for neighbouring municipalities as customers in the interim while we grow to design capacity. The MOECC has a definitive mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and a local OPF would reduce the need for trucking of this material outside the County and provide local processing capacity.

Siting Process

How was the preferred location determined?

The siting process was developed by industry-leading experts and included the evaluation of 502 potential sites through a three-screen process, applying more than 20 environmental and technical criteria (such as the avoidance of wetlands and floodplains, vulnerable areas under Source Protection, Prime Agricultural Areas, and sensitive receptors). County landfill properties and willing vendor industrial-zoned sites were included in the scope of properties reviewed in the site selection process. A short list of seven sites was presented for public, Aboriginal, and stakeholder consultation in fall 2015, followed by a detailed comparative evaluation completed by the County's consultant. Following this exhaustive siting and consultation period, furthering development of a co-located OPF and MMF at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater, was approved by County Council. This location has many noted advantages, including favourable environmental conditions.

Was the siting criteria weighted?

No. No single criteria influenced the rankings more than another. The 502 candidate sites had to satisfy Screen 1 criteria – that is, they had to meet certain environmental and technical criteria to be further evaluated as viable to host the facilities (this included site size and groundwater conditions). In the second step, a series of Screen 2 criteria was used to evaluate which sites offered the most favourable conditions, with these sites becoming the short-listed sites. Finally, each short-listed site was evaluated thoroughly and the net effects of constructing the facilities at each location determined. The short-listed sites were then compared against each other, with the preferred site offering the most advantages.

Was waste generation considered?

Yes. Waste generation was a consideration in the siting process for the MMF, a location where waste from multiple collection vehicles will be consolidated. The search area encompassed lands within Springwater, Oro-Medonte, Innisfil, Essa, and Clearview and was based on the centre of waste generation in the County. This area considers not only the number of households throughout the County (where garbage is generated) but minimization of travel distance. Transportation efficiencies are important for the MMF as curbside collection vehicles must collect waste throughout the County but be able to return to the transfer location and discharge in a timely manner at the end of the day.

Was agricultural land a consideration in the evaluation?

Yes. Avoidance of Prime Agricultural Areas (lands where Specialty Crop Areas and Class 1, 2, and 3 soils dominate) was a consideration in Screen 1. Prime Agricultural Lands are designated in local and County Official Plans. Of the 502 candidate sites evaluated, 71 were excluded due to their location within Prime Agricultural Areas or high quality soils.

Why did candidate sites have to be so large? Will the facility take up this much space?

Site size was considered as part of the technical siting criteria. For a co-located facility, the minimum site size was 17 ha (42 acres) – although the actual footprint would be a portion of this, approximately 4.5 ha (11 acres). The difference between the two provides what is known as a buffer – the distance between the facility and surrounding land uses. It is common practice when siting this type of facility to provide a buffer area. It is used in combination with good design and operational practices to mitigate potential impacts such as odour and noise. Generally, the greater the distance to sensitive receptors, the greater potential to reduce conflicts between the site and neighbours.

Minimum property size, including buffer distances, was recommended by the County's consultant, utilizing their expertise and applying best practices. This was exclusionary criteria and did not change during the evaluation or with surrounding land use.

Were only County forests considered as potential sites?

No. The list of 502 candidate sites included open and closed County landfills and willing vendor properties identified through a search of the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) of the Canadian Real Estate Association and through a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI).

Why wasn't a County landfill site selected as the preferred site?

All County open and closed landfills were considered as potential sites, with 53 related properties evaluated. Using the first set of evaluation criteria, 32 did not meet the minimum property size requirements, 15 were not carried forward since they were in sensitive groundwater areas, two were excluded for wetlands, and one for Prime Agricultural Land with additional access issues. The three remaining sites were further evaluated, with only the Clearview site being carried forward to the short list as a potential site. In the Screen 3 evaluation, the Clearview site was evaluated for the OPF and ranked third. This site is not a landfill and comprises Prime Agricultural Land, which is actively farmed. Therefore, it offered no advantage for brownfield redevelopment.

Is an Environmental Assessment required?

No. However, from the outset, these projects have been approached with an understanding of the sensitive nature of siting waste management facilities. Although an EA is not required, the County has developed these projects with this framework in mind, which has included undertaking a comprehensive siting and consultation process.

Under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, an EA is required if more than 1,000 tonnes per day of residual waste is transferred from the site for final disposal. This is based on the design capacity of the facility. With anticipated growth over a 30-year design period, it is estimated the County will manage approximately 435 tonnes/day of waste for final disposal (for a combined facility in 2048). This is well below the 1,000 tonnes/day trigger outlined in the Act. Furthermore, these projections do not take into account any further increases in diversion (from the addition of pet waste and diapers, for example), which would actually lower the projected tonnes of waste for final disposal.

Was Greenlands mapping considered?

Yes. Consideration of the Greenlands and, in addition, many of the features and functions that make up the Greenlands designation (notably significant wetlands, Species at Risk, and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs)) were considered during the siting process. It was not considered exclusionary, however, as development on Greenlands is not precluded. It requires additional consultation and a scoped Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of the EIS, development of the

property must demonstrate no negative impact to site natural heritage features and ecological function.

Why were there no industrial sites on the short list?

County landfill properties and willing vendor industrial-zoned sites were included in the scope of properties reviewed in the site selection process. Many of these sites were excluded in Screen 1 based on their size, distance from the centre of waste generation, and groundwater conditions. Land use and zoning was a consideration in Screens 2 and 3 – along with several other environmental, technical, and social criteria. This criteria was not exclusionary but rather used to assess whether a site offered an advantage in this regard.

One of the short-listed sites (located at 540/528 Penetanguishene Road, Springwater), had areas zoned General Industrial/Outside Storage (MO). This was considered in the final comparative evaluation.

Was expropriation considered during the siting process?

No. All County-owned properties were evaluated and, in addition, willing-vendor sites were sought through a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) process and a search of the Multiple Listing Service (MLS).

Was groundwater considered when selecting the preferred site?

Yes. Source Protection mapping was used to determine which candidate sites were in a Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA), Highly Vulnerable Aquifer (HVA), or had medium to high vulnerability Significant Recharge Areas (SGRAs). This important exclusionary criteria was used to remove sites from further evaluation. Of the 502 candidate sites evaluated, 184 were excluded in consideration of groundwater. In Screen 3, groundwater considerations such as depth, flow, and direction were further used to evaluate the short list of sites. The preferred location has favourable groundwater conditions. Placement and design of the facility will consider site-specific groundwater conditions.

Site Design, Technology, Operations

What provincial approvals are required for operation of these facilities?

Both the OPF and MMF are regulated under the Environmental Protection Act and will require an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). An ECA is overseen and enforced by the province and will cover waste operations, air and noise, and surface water and groundwater monitoring and control at the facility. It will govern how the facility will be operated and monitored with respect to preventing offsite impacts. The approvals process will require submission of environmental and technical reports and assurances that public, Aboriginal, and stakeholder consultation has been undertaken.

When will this facility be operational?

The approved Development Strategy for the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre outlines staged construction of the MMF and OPF. Under the latest development timeline, the MMF will be commissioned first in 2019, the OPF will follow in 2021. These dates are estimates only as development will be contingent on receiving Planning and environmental approvals.

What will be the operating days/hours?

Operating hours will be outlined in the ECA. It is anticipated the facility will operate six days per week (Monday thru Saturday) from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., generally. Collection vehicles will generally utilize the MMF Monday thru Friday and offload when routes are completed (currently average between 2 and 6 p.m.). County-owned trucks, managing divertible material collected at drop-off facilities, would leave the facility around 6:30 a.m. and generally return by 4:30 p.m. Garbage and recycling would be sent outbound for processing during working hours Monday thru Saturday.

Will technology selection consider the ability to control odours?

Yes. This will be an important consideration during the evaluation of different technologies. Modern facilities utilizing aerobic composting or anaerobic digestion are designed to contain and mitigate odours. Any technology will be expected to meet MOECC regulations for odour.

Will nearby neighbours be impacted by odours?

It will be the responsibility of the County to ensure that

neighbours are not impacted by odours. Controlling offsite odours will be a significant operational requirement of the facility and site design and technology must ensure specified odour limits are met. This was a consideration during the siting process and the preferred location offers large separation distances. Modern odour control measures will also be incorporated into design of the buildings and material will be accepted in enclosed buildings under negative air pressure, utilizing fast-action doors. Additional information can be found in the odour assessment completed as part of the Facility Characteristics Report.

What will be the end product? Will it be available for local agricultural initiatives?

One of the benefits of developing the OPF in the County will be producing compost or fertilizer from our green bin organics to support local markets (inclusive of agriculture). In addition and depending on processing technology, an end product may be renewable energy in the form of green electricity or natural gas, or potentially vehicle fuel.

When will the processing method/technology be selected for the OPF?

Technology selection will be a three-part procurement process. It began with a Request for Information, closing in early 2017. A Request for Pre-qualification and Request for Proposal for organics processing technology will be released following receipt of the Planning approvals, anticipated in 2017.

Will the garbage trucks themselves cause odour impacts to the neighbours?

Garbage trucks currently travel every serviced street in the County. The County has not received odour complaints regarding these trucks.

Will nearby neighbours be impacted by noise from the facility?

The ECA will contain operating conditions pertaining to noise and hours of operation for the facility. As mitigation, the preferred site is large and offers good buffer distances. Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to noise will be implemented such as conducting site operations inside enclosed buildings, where reasonable. Additional information can be found in the noise assessment completed as part of the Facility Characteristics Report (a link to this study is provided at simcoe.ca/errc).

Site Design, Technology, Operations cont'd

Will nearby neighbours be able to see the facility?

Visual screening of the facility was considered in the evaluation of the short-listed sites. It was noted the preferred site has limited potential visual effects as the site is quite large, well-screened by existing vegetation, and has favourable topography. The ideal location for the facility in consideration of setbacks and environmental features will allow for the footprint to be set back from neighbouring properties and Horseshoe Valley Road West.

Will there be any impacts to soils or surrounding agricultural land?

Operations conducted at this facility do not involve landfilling. Garbage and recycling brought to the MMF will be transferred from an enclosed building and hauled to other processing or disposal facilities. Processing of source-separated organics at the OPF will be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner, adhering to all MOECC regulations and guidelines. Mitigation measures such as conducting operations under cover, containing process water, and environmental monitoring of groundwater and surface water will be undertaken.

What are the facility's water requirements?

For the MMF, very little water usage is expected other than for cleaning activities. For the OPF, some water may be required (dependent on technology) but food waste is already high in water content. It is anticipated water requirements will be below what would require a Permit to Take Water (50 m³/day) from the MOECC.

How will water be managed on-site?

Management of water, such as process water, sewage generated on-site, and truck washing water, will be considered and planned for in the design of the facility. It will be the responsibility of the County to meet all requirements outlined by the MOECC in the ECA.

How will air quality be monitored?

Controlling emissions from the facility, including odours and dust, will be a significant operational requirement of the facility. It will be the responsibility of the County to meet all requirements outlined by the MOECC in the ECA, including any annual monitoring and reporting requirements. This will include rigorous continuous monitoring of the odour abatement systems to ensure they are operating effectively.

What is anaerobic digestion? How is biogas used?

Anaerobic digestion is a potential organics processing technology utilizing biological processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. One of the end products is biogas, which is used to generate electricity and heat, or can be processed into renewable natural gas and transportation fuels.

Will anaerobic digestion be considered for the OPF?

Yes. In June 2016, County Council provided direction that procurement of organics processing technology would be "technology neutral" and open the process to consider both aerobic composting and anaerobic digestion.

What permits would be required for anaerobic digestion or recovery of biogas?

Planning applications are not technology-specific. Technical studies undertaken for these applications have considered various technologies. Technology will be considered in the application for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). Should biogas be converted to electricity as part of the selected technology, the County would be required to apply to the MOECC for a Renewable Energy Approval (REA).

How will the final location of the facility footprint be determined?

Many factors will determine the final facility location and site plan. The location of buildings within the facility clustered on the 207-acre property will consider constraints such as setbacks from the property line and wetland areas, groundwater and soil conditions, and other findings from the technical studies. Setbacks from property lines and environmental features such as wetlands will comply with all municipal and provincial legislation. In addition, distances from sensitive receptors and buffer distances will be an important consideration.

A conceptual site plan outlining the location of the footprint and on-site features was submitted with the technical studies required for Planning amendments. As the Planning process is furthered and the site plan refined, a final site plan will be submitted to the Township of Springwater for approval.

Site Design, Technology, Operations cont'd

How will fire safety be addressed in the design and operation of the ERRC?

Ensuring the safe design and operation of this facility is paramount. Meeting all regulatory requirements, design measures will include fire detection and warning systems, fire suppression systems (such as sprinklers), building layout, ensuring available on-site water supply, and creating appropriate separation distances, as required by the Ontario Building Code. On the operations side, a fire prevention plan will be enacted to ensure that site personnel and visitors are aware of implemented fire safety protocols and receive appropriate training. As at our other County waste management facilities, this plan will include regular maintenance and inspection protocols, designating areas for smoking, and managing the quantity of material stored on-site. In addition, a fire response plan will be prepared in consultation with the local municipality.

How will the Planning submission move forward without knowing technology?

Applications for Official Plan and zoning amendments include numerous studies related to site conditions and facility operations and provide details on the intended use of this facility. Studies such as the Facility Characteristics Report are technology neutral and consider impacts of various known organics processing technologies to allow for either aerobic composting or anaerobic digestion technologies.

Financial Considerations

Who will own/operate the MMF and OPF?

Although both the MMF and OPF will manage waste at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, they will be operated separately as organics processing involves specialized equipment. The MMF is quite simply a building for temporary storage and consolidation of garbage and recycling.

- The MMF will be a design-bid-build (DBB), that is, the County will retain an engineering firm to develop a detailed design and specifications for a tender process. A contractor will be selected and retained to construct the facility, which the County will own and operate/maintain following commissioning.
- The OPF will be delivered via a design-build-operate (DBO) model; the County would own the facility but contract a single entity to design, construct, and operate/maintain it.

What are the anticipated costs for the facility?

Although actual costs of the MMF will be determined through the procurement process, it is estimated the capital cost of the MMF will be \$4.7 million. This considers \$1.15 million in significant funding secured from the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF). Estimated capital costs to develop the OPF could range from \$10 to \$35 million or higher, dependent on selected

technology. Accurate costs, however, will only be determined through site-specific design and the procurement process.

Was a business case completed for the MMF?

Yes. In 2014, County Council was presented with a financial analysis in regard to development of transfer infrastructure. Given the basic function of the MMF and the County's experience in developing other similar infrastructure projects, estimated costs (not site-specific) have already been determined for this facility. Based on this initial analysis, the payback period for a County facility was estimated to be approximately 5.5 years (with funding).

How were the savings calculated for the MMF?

The analysis compared the current system of contracting transfer services against costs associated with development of a County facility. It considered changes in tonnages from growth, consideration of increased export of garbage with closure of County landfills, capital costs of the building and equipment, and estimated annual operating expenses.

Financial Considerations cont'd

Will costs of the MMF be updated now that the siting is complete?

Yes. Following site-specific studies and procurement of an engineering firm to further work on design and specifications, costing for the facility will be refined and presented to County Council. This is anticipated for 2017.

When will the business case be developed for the OPF? Why has it not been undertaken?

A viability assessment for the OPF was undertaken in 2012. It concluded that given the County's tonnages, development of a facility would be a viable option. As technology for processing organics varies widely, site-specific costs to develop a facility at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West will now be determined through a procurement process. This process will allow vendors to submit proposals with detailed costing once site conditions are known. To begin this process, a Request for Information seeking information on organics management options is being undertaken with a preliminary business case to be presented in early 2017. Following the results of a Request for Proposal, a final business case will be presented in

2018 for County Council's consideration and direction.

What will the OPF business case consider?

The OPF business case will compare the current system of contracting services against costs associated with development of a County facility. It will consider changes in tonnages from growth and potential increases in diversion, capital costs of the building and equipment, and estimated annual operating expenses. In addition, it will provide consideration to the social and environmental aspects of the project.

Will neighbours of the site be compensated?

Compensation will be considered once impacts of developing the facility at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West are fully understood. The process to determine need for compensation will begin with finalizing the site layout and design (including selection of organics processing technology) and determining how both the transfer and organics processing facilities will operate on a daily basis.

Planning

What planning approvals are required?

Development of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre will require amendments to the County Official Plan as well as the Township of Springwater Official Plan and zoning bylaw.

Will the entire site be zoned for this type of facility? What is the plan for that additional land?

No. The total 207 acres will not be rezoned as only 4.5 ha is required for the facility and reasonable space for expansion (a potential future recycling sorting facility, for example). Further discussions on this will be required with County Planning staff and the Township of Springwater now that the technical studies have been completed. Factors that may influence how the property is rezoned may include agency comments received regarding the Environmental Impact Study, preservation of space for recreational activities, and discussions with neighbouring landowners.

What technical studies have been undertaken?

The following studies were undertaken to further both local and County Planning amendments:

- Planning Justification Report
- Agricultural Impact Assessment Report
- Scoped Environmental Impact Study (includes Hazard Land Assessment)
- Facility Characteristics Report (includes Conceptual Site Plan, Functional Servicing Study, Stormwater Management Study, Noise Assessment, Odour Assessment)
- Hydrogeological Assessment
- Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment
- Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment
- Stage 3 Site Specific Assessment – Supplementary Documentation
- Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment: Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
- Traffic Impact Assessment

Planning cont'd

What does the Environmental Impact Study include?

The Environmental Impact Study examined natural features of the property (including soils, vegetation, wildlife, topography, watercourses/bodies) and the ecological functions they provide. It outlines potential environmental impacts on both vegetation and wildlife and recommended mitigation measures. Additional information on this and the field investigations completed in consultation with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) can be found in the EIS report dated November 16, 2016.

The EIS was conducted by a qualified consultant (with expertise in species identification, biological, ecological and/or environmental functions). The final report is included with the Planning submissions and is available on the County's website under Planning (a link to this study is provided at simcoe.ca/errc).

Was an Archaeological Assessment undertaken?

Yes. A Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Study was undertaken in summer 2016 followed by Stage 3 work to further evaluate an archaeological find (a pioneer homestead).

Did any study consider the cemetery neighbouring the property?

Yes. Although the footprint of the facility will not be located in this area, a Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment was conducted in conjunction with the Archaeological Assessment. The purpose of this study was to identify any impacts to cultural heritage resources and propose appropriate mitigation measures. Additional information can be found in the report dated August 2016 (revised November 2016).

Will the impact on wildlife be studied?

Yes. An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has been conducted to identify potential impacts to wildlife and fish habitat. As part of the EIS, development of the property must demonstrate no negative impact to site natural heritage features and ecological function. The siting evaluation considered effects of facility development on species of special concern, threatened, and endangered (including aquatic species). A preliminary review of historical records indicated low net effects on Species at Risk (SAR) for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West. This was further confirmed with a preliminary assessment of natural heritage features, undertaken in early 2016. Additional information can be found in the Scoped Environmental Impact Study (EIS) dated November 16, 2016 (a link to this study is provided at simcoe.ca/errc).

What will this site be designated in the County's Official Plan?

We will be working with Provincial and County Planning staff to determine how this facility will be designated in our Official Plan. The County's approach to waste management has evolved away from traditional landfilling of all waste. As our efforts are now focused on diversion, designation of lands with infrastructure where there is no waste disposed, such as the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, will be further considered with the application for planning approvals. A site-specific Official Plan designation will be applied to the site to reflect the non-landfill nature of the facility and its operation.

Transportation

Was transportation considered in the siting evaluation?

Yes. The siting evaluation considered neighbourhood traffic impacts, existing and required infrastructure, and capital costs associated with infrastructure improvements. The preferred location offered numerous advantages in regard to transportation – centrally located on Horseshoe Valley Road (County Road 22) with excellent access to Highways 400, 27, 26, and 11.

What will be the impact of additional traffic to this area?

The impact of additional traffic is outlined in the Traffic Impact Study (TIS). This study examined data related to peak periods – both for site-generated traffic and for this portion of Horseshoe Valley Road West. Additional information can be found in the report dated November 2016 (a link to this study is provided at simcoe.ca/errc).

Transportation cont'd

What is a Traffic Impact Study?

The purpose of a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) is to examine the impact of traffic generated by the proposed development at its access, nearby intersections and interchanges, and to determine any necessary highway design improvements required.

Will the TIS be made public?

Yes. The final report was included with the Planning submissions and is available on the County's website (a link to this study is provided at simcoe.ca/errc).

Are road alterations needed to accommodate traffic turning in and out of the site?

Yes. The TIS concluded that an eastbound left turn lane and a westbound climbing lane are warranted. Additional information can be found in the TIS report.

How many vehicles would be going to this facility daily?

Initial estimates indicate that 150 vehicles would utilize the ERRC daily in 2021 with a maximum of 220 vehicles when the facility reaches its 30-year design capacity in 2049. As outlined in the TIS, this would equate to between 89 and 148 trips during peak hours at the design capacity.

Will vehicles access the facility from Horseshoe Valley Road or Rainbow Valley Road?

The main access to the facility will be from Horseshoe Valley Road, with the potential for emergency access via Rainbow Valley Road.

Forestry

What is the history of the Freele Tract?

This property was purchased in 1948 with the majority of tree planting completed in 1949. As a working forest, plantations within this tract have been thinned several times in the past, and are scheduled to be assessed in 2017 for harvesting as part of regular forestry management.

What will happen to the rest of the tract?

The facility footprint is anticipated to be 11 acres (4.5 hectares) of the 207 acre (84 hectares) location (approximately 5%), allowing for continued forest management activities and use of the forest for recreational purposes.

Will a snowmobile trail remain?

Yes. It is anticipated the facility design will allow for continued use of the forest for recreational purposes for the majority of the property.

What will be done to mitigate the impact on the forest?

Preserving forested areas is important as they will act as visual screening for the neighbouring landowners. Only a small portion of this large property will be required for the footprint of the facility (11 acres/4.5 hectares out of 207 acres/84 hectares).

What is a working forest?

The County Forest is economically self-sustaining and operates without the use of tax-dollars. As a 'working forest', approximately 1,200 to 1,500 acres are thinned annually to maintain forest health, improve future timber values, and achieve other objectives. All revenue from the sustainable management of the Forest is directed back into management activities and the strategic acquisition of additional lands. The Simcoe County Forest is wholly owned by the County of Simcoe; it is not Crown land.

How many acres of forest does the County currently manage?

At more than 32,600 acres and still growing, the Simcoe County Forest is the largest municipally-owned forest in Ontario and among the largest of its kind in Canada with more than 150 properties ranging in size from 13 to more than 3,500 acres. Simcoe County is one of the few municipalities in Ontario that continue to invest in additional lands to ensure the substantial environmental, social and economic benefits continue into the future. Within the past decade, the County Forest has expanded by more than 3,600 acres; in 2015 alone, a further 436 acres has been added in Springwater, Oro-Medonte and Clearview Townships.



Where can I find more information?

Additional information, including upcoming milestones, information materials, and related staff reports, can be found at **simcoe.ca/errc**.

Feedback or questions can be submitted directly via these pages or by calling Customer Service at **1-800-263-3199**



County of Simcoe
Solid Waste Management
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Main Line (705) 726-9300
Toll Free (866) 893-9300
Fax (705) 727-4276
simcoe.ca



December 16, 2016

Mr. Robert Wagner
2928 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

Dear Mr. Wagner:

**RE: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to e-mails dated December 9, 14, and 15, 2016**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated December 9, 14, and 15, 2016 (sent by e-mail to Customer Service and the Warden) in regard to a recent e-mail notification sent to the County's *Environmental Resource Recovery Centre* (ERRC) project contact list. These e-mails have been forwarded to Solid Waste Management for response and clarification.

To confirm, a description of the facilities to be located at the ERRC is found in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document found at www.simcoe.ca/errc under:

*What is the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre?
What is a "co-located" facility?*

Should you or other recipients of these notifications have questions on the progress of the project, additional information can be found on the webpage (as was stated in the e-mail). Currently you will find past staff reports and communication material and, in addition, more recent details on the status of the Planning amendments and the Request for Information.

I hope that this information provides some clarification.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob McCullough".

Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management

cc. Gerry Marshall, Warden, County of Simcoe
Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe

From: Robert Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 11:32 PM
To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: ERR Centre

Are you familiar with the legal term "fraudulent misrepresentation"? Perhaps the County solicitor can define it for you.

Please note that this inbox is monitored on an ongoing basis.

I look forward to communicating with you in the future.

R.W. Wagner

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 9, 2016, at 7:05 PM, Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to email the Office of Warden Gerry Marshall at the County of Simcoe.

The purpose of this email is to acknowledge receipt of your communication. Your message is important to us.

My staff reviews all emails and ensures that they receive prompt attention.

Please note that this inbox is only monitored during business hours.

We look forward to communicating with you in future.

Warden Gerry Marshall

From: Robert Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 7:06 PM
To: Customer Service <CustomerService.Service@simcoe.ca>
Cc: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>
Subject: ERR Centre

For clarity, when you refer to the “OPF at the County’s Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, located at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West”, you are really referring to the proposed ERR Centre, to be comprised of an Organics Processing Facility AND Materials Management Facility AND eventual expansion to a fire-prone Materials Recovery Facility, all to be located in the middle of a forest rather than one of the many industrially-zoned sites within the County. It is a mistake to assume that the public will not consider all of the options that are available, and those options will be made known, despite your ongoing attempts to block/limit the flow of relevant information and/or downplay the growing level of resistance.

From: Customer Service [<mailto:CustomerService.Service@simcoe.ca>]
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 3:36 PM
To: Customer Service
Subject: Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects - Project Update

Good afternoon,

Development of the County’s Environmental Resource Recovery Centre continues. Please note that the first procurement opportunity related to development of the Organics Processing Facility (OPF), a Request for Information (RFI), has been posted on the County’s procurement site at www.biddingo.com/simcoe and on the project webpage at www.simcoe.ca/errc.

The purpose of [RFI 2016-127 – Organics Management Options](#) is to gather information on alternatives for processing of the County’s source-separated organics. These alternatives will be assessed in a preliminary business case which will examine the various options for organics processing available to the County at this time – including development of an OPF at the County’s Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, located 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater.

Additional information on this project – including upcoming project milestones, communication material from public information and consultation sessions, and related staff reports – can be found at www.simcoe.ca/errc. If you no longer wish to receive updates on these projects, please reply to this e-mail with “remove from mailing list” in the subject line.

Regards,

Customer Service

County of Simcoe, Customer Service Department
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6
Phone: 705-735-6901 1-800-263-3199

Email: info@simcoe.ca
simcoe.ca

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member Municipalities and provides crucial Public Services to County Residents in addition to providing Paramedic and Social Services to the separated Cities of Barrie and Orillia.

Ü Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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If you receive this communication in error, please notify the sender at the above email address and delete this email immediately."



October 28, 2016

Mr. R. W. Wagner (delivered by hand October 28, 2016)
2928 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, ON
L0L 2K0

**RE: County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to Various Correspondence**

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Thank you for your correspondence (letter dated October 12, 2016, e-mails dated October 18 and October 20, 2016) regarding the tour on November 2 for neighbouring landowners. We wish to address your comments and provide:

- clarification on the timing of these tours at this stage in project development;
- justification of expending funds for these tours;
- details on why these facilities were selected for the tour; and
- scheduling the tour on a weekday.

Timing of Tour

To clarify, the siting process is complete and direction from County Council is to proceed with development at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Studies are being finalized for submission of Planning applications in the near future, noting that there has been no indication from these studies that development will be precluded at this location. Moving forward, the project will proceed with obtaining approvals necessary for initiating design and construction of the Materials Management Facility (MMF).

We anticipate that neighbouring landowners will have questions as we proceed to the approvals stage. Following the neighbouring landowner meeting held on September 8, it was evident given the nature of some questions that there was still some confusion on what operations would be undertaken at this facility. We feel it prudent to address these questions now, being sensitive to the concerns of our neighbours. It has been quite beneficial in the past to provide tours of similar waste management facilities – allowing participants to see firsthand how they are designed and operated. This tour will also provide near neighbours the opportunity to ask questions of our consultant while on-site.

Cost of Tour

It is our desire to provide quality and cost-effective services for our residents – and this project is no exception. Providing those closest to the proposed facility with information and allowing them the opportunity to see these facilities firsthand is, I believe, money well spent and justifiable considering the sensitive nature of siting this type of infrastructure. Of course, we will seek to minimize the costs associated with transportation and lunch, being cognizant of the project budget.

Selected Facilities

As stated in the letter to neighbouring landowners (dated September 30, 2016), the purpose of this tour is to provide a better understanding of how these types of facilities (that being transfer and organics processing facilities) are designed and operated. Although technology has not been selected and site-specific details may differ (or, as you stated, have different "external grounds"), there will be design features and operations common to the County facility. These include how material is received and loaded, housekeeping procedures, odour and stormwater management, and on-site management of material in different buildings.

The two municipal facilities selected for the tour – that being the City of Toronto's Disco Road Green Bin Facility and City of Guelph's Waste Resource Innovation Centre – will allow for touring combined transfer/organics processing facilities which employ anaerobic digestion and aerobic composting, respectively. We are fortunate that, based on our proximity to these facilities, we can host this one day tour for our neighbours. There are many other facilities located within North America – some of which are located in more rural areas. They would, however, be impractical to visit in person.

In regard to siting of Toronto's Disco Road Green Bin Facility on a former landfill, we are unaware of how their siting process was undertaken. We can, however, speak to our evaluation of 53 properties related to County open and closed landfills during the siting process. These sites were excluded based on size, groundwater conditions, wetlands, and Prime Agricultural Land as outlined in our FAQs (under *Siting Process*) and, in addition, communicated to you in previous correspondence (e-mail dated October 5, 2015).

Weekday Tour

We appreciate your comment noting that residents may not be able to attend as this is a workday. When setting the date for this tour, we confirmed with both the City of Guelph and the City of Toronto that such tours would not be offered on weekends as they are municipally-operated facilities.

We trust that this provides some clarification. We hope that some of your neighbours will be able to attend and get a better understanding of how these types of facilities are designed and operated.

Regards,



Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management Department

2928 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, Ontario
L0L 2K0
October 12, 2016

R. McCullough
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario
L0L 1X0

Sir:

Re: Proposed Garbage Depot
2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West

Referring to your letter dated September 30 (copy attached), the site selection for the subject facility has not yet been finalized. In fact, I note that the 4-member archaeological team was still digging test holes today.

With that in mind, does it make sense to spend taxpayers' money to offer tours to the "near neighbours" when the proposed site may yet be proven unsuitable? How can you know who the "near neighbours" will be until such time as the site selection is finalized?

Your actions suggest one of two scenarios:

- 1) A flagrant disregard for competent usage of our money, or
- 2) A strong fixation on the proposed site, to the extent that nothing can possibly stand in the way of its final selection.

Assuming an open and transparent site selection is in progress, it is clearly premature to offer tours to individuals prior to the final site selection.

In past exchanges of correspondence, you have pointed to County Council as the decision-makers in this process, and effectively evaded responsibility for your actions/lack of action. Will you now blame County Council for this most recent misstep?

REMEMBER SITE 41



R.W. Wagner (Mr)

c.c. All County Councillors

c.c. All Springwater Township Councillors

c.c. all "Near Neighbours"

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2016

**COUNTY OF SIMCOE
CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION**



September 30, 2016

Mr. and Ms. Wagner
2928 Horseshoe Valley Road
RR1
Phelpston, Ontario
L0L 2K0

**RE: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Facility Tour for Neighbouring Landowners**

Dear Mr. and Ms. Wagner,

Further to our neighbouring landowner meeting held on September 8, 2016, please see enclosed the final meeting notes (amended as noted on page 1). In addition, we wish to invite you to a tour of two waste management facilities on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Although technology has not been determined for the County's Organics Processing Facility, we are offering this tour for near neighbours to provide a better understanding of how these types of facilities operate. This tour is being undertaken on a workday as these facilities do not offer tours on weekends.

With our consultant, Dr. Tej Gidda (from GHD Limited), this tour will visit two facilities which employ different organics processing technologies but are multi-purpose waste facilities including organics processing operations:

- City of Toronto's Disco Road Green Bin Facility (anaerobic digestion technology); and
- City of Guelph's Waste Resource Innovation Centre (aerobic composting).

It is anticipated that we will leave from the County Administration Centre at 8:15 am and return at approximately 4:00 pm with lunch provided on route. Please note that a formal itinerary will be finalized and distributed once the group size is known. Personal protective equipment (hard hats, vests, and safety glasses) will be provided but we ask that safety boots/shoes or closed toe shoes (no heels) be worn.

As space is limited, this tour will not be open to the public and **only those residents** living within 500 m of 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West will be permitted to attend (two residents/household). We ask for your co-operation in this regard as we wish that those living closest to the property can observe operations at these facilities themselves, hear information provided, and have the opportunity to ask questions directly. To be included in the tour we require confirmation of attendance by October 20, 2016. Please contact Stephanie Mack by e-mail stephanie.mack@simcoe.ca or at (705) 726-9300 x1924. She will relay additional information regarding this tour, confirm final details, and provide the itinerary prior to November 2.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob McCullough".

Rob McCullough
Director – Solid Waste Management



County of Simcoe
Office of the Warden
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L0L 1X0

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Toll Free 1 866 893 9300
Fax (705) 725 1285
Web: simcoe.ca



September 14, 2016

Mr. R. W. Wagner
2928 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

Dear Mr. Wagner:

**RE: County of Simcoe – Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects
2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence (received by e-mail on September 10, 2016) in regard to public drop-in sessions which the County will host on September 20, 2016. Please note that this response has been prepared with the assistance of County staff as it contains some specific content regarding consultation for the Solid Waste Management projects.

We wish to clarify again, Mr. Wagner, that the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre is not a "garbage dump". This location will house the Materials Management Facility (MMF), Organics Processing Facility (OPF), a Solid Waste Management truck servicing area, public education area, and have the potential for future expansion to a recycling sorting facility.

Resource material has been provided on-line and provided to near neighbours at our neighbouring landowner meeting held on September 8. The upcoming drop-in sessions will allow our consultant and Solid Waste Management staff to answer questions in an informal setting and relay information on the project delivery method for the Organics Processing Facility (OPF) to residents who may have questions regarding the on-line material or survey.

Although the two sessions to be held next Thursday are at the same location (Simcoe County Museum) and times (2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm) as previous project meetings (held in June and December 2014, October 2015, and April 2016), the format will be different. Advertising these sessions as drop-in only (and clearly indicating that this is not an open house) is to provide clarity for residents who may be expecting a similar format. Please note that no information will be provided on storyboards, there will be no formal presentation, or additional staff from departments such as Forestry, Planning, or Transportation.

I hope that the information provided is helpful, Mr. Wagner, and provides some additional information on the forthcoming sessions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Marshall".

Gerry Marshall
Warden, County of Simcoe
Mayor, Town of Penetanguishene

From: Robert Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2016 1:25 AM
To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects - On-line Survey

Please explain to me the difference between a “public drop-in session” and a “Public Open House”.

It appears that you are trying to limit engagement with your representatives in such a way that County residents who ask awkward questions about the proposed garbage dump can be segregated out from any other residents who might be interested in the answers.

This speaks to the County staff's ongoing course of conduct which continues to fall far short of openness and transparency. All the more reason our County needs an Integrity Commissioner.

From: Customer Service [<mailto:CustomerService.Service@simcoe.ca>]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Customer Service
Subject: Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects - On-line Survey

Good afternoon,

On August 23, 2016, County Council received Item [CCW 16-266](#) which outlines options and key considerations for the procurement of the Organics Processing Facility (OPF). County Council will provide direction this fall on the recommendation to employ a Design-Build-Operate (DBO) delivery model. Further information on procurement of the OPF and project delivery, including a presentation by the County's consultant, can be found at www.simcoe.ca/opf.

As part of this process, we are seeking input from the public through a brief survey. Feedback will be accepted until October 4, 2016.

[Take the Survey](#)

In addition, on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, the County will be hosting two public drop-in sessions at the Simcoe County Museum, located at 1151 Highway 26 in Minesing, from 2 – 4 p.m. and from 6 – 8 p.m. The County's consultant and Solid Waste Management staff will be available to answer questions regarding the project delivery method for the OPF. No appointment required. Some wait times may occur. Please note that this is not a Public Open House.

Additional information on these projects – including upcoming project milestones, communication material from public information and consultation sessions, and related staff reports – can be found at www.simcoe.ca/opf and www.simcoe.ca/mmf. If you no longer wish to receive updates on these projects, please reply to this e-mail with “remove from mailing list” in the subject line.

Regards,

Customer Service

County of Simcoe, Customer Service Department
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6
Phone: 705-735-6901 1-800-263-3199
Email: info@simcoe.ca
simcoe.ca

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member Municipalities and provides crucial Public Services to County Residents in addition to providing Paramedic and Social Services to the separated Cities of Barrie and Orillia.

Ü Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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simcoe.ca

December 22, 2016

Ms. Lynda Van Casteren
3066/3088 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

**RE: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to December 12, 2016 e-mail**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated December 12, 2016 (sent by e-mail to me and Customer Service) in regard to a recent e-mail notification sent to the County's *Environmental Resource Recovery Centre* (ERRC) project contact list. Please consider this letter as response to your e-mail to Customer Service as it has been prepared with the assistance of County staff.

Although we appreciate your feedback, it was clearly noted in the first statement of the e-mail that the ERRC project is under development. County Council direction on this is clear – work will continue on advancing both the Materials Management Facility (MMF) and Organics Processing Facility (OPF) projects at the ERRC site, located at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Project development has been documented in previous correspondence to the contact list, in numerous Council reports, and on the posted Development Strategy (on the project webpage).

We note that although there is no requirement to do so, we are providing these regular updates to the contact list with the intention of keeping recipients informed. We assume that those receiving these e-mails have some knowledge of this project (i.e. they are following its progress) as they themselves have signed-up to receive updates. Since 2014, we have provided numerous e-mails on consultation and information sessions, staff reports, and procurement opportunities related to this project (over fifteen e-mails).

Should you or other recipients of these notifications have questions on the progress of the project, additional information can be found at www.simcoe.ca/errc. Currently you will find past staff reports and communication material and, in addition, more recent details on the status of the Planning amendments and the Request for Information.

I hope that this provides some clarification.

Sincerely,

Gerry Marshall
Warden, County of Simcoe
Mayor, Town of Penetanguishene

cc. Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
Debbie Korolnek, P.Eng., General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment
Rob McCullough, Director, Solid Waste Management, County of Simcoe

From: Lynda Van Casteren [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 11:07 AM
To: Customer Service <CustomerService.Service@simcoe.ca>; Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>
Cc: French, Bill <Bill.French@simcoe.ca>
Subject: Project Update

Good morning: The County should be retracting the recent update and issuing an apology as it provides misleading information to the public. They state: "including development of an OPF at the County's Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, located 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater."

This would lead one to believe that there is already a facility on the property when, in fact, there isn't even currently the zoning to allow such a facility to be constructed. If I'm not mistaken, this property is still the Freele Tract, it is still forested and it doesn't yet have any type of facility on it as it's not zoned for such a facility.

To anyone not following this, it would appear that there's already a facility operating there and such a statement should never have been approved by the County's representatives.

Has there been some development that supports this premature conclusion? A prompt response is requested.

Respectfully
Lynda Van Casteren



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simcoe.ca

December 22, 2016

The Mercer Family &
The Dunlop Family
1601 Rainbow Valley Road East
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mercer (and family) and Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop:

**RE: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to e-mail dated December 13, 2016**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated December 13, 2016 (sent by e-mail to County Council) in regard to my recent response regarding the potential for future recycling processing at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). Please note that this response has been prepared with the assistance of County staff as it contains some specific technical content.

For clarity, we will add the term 'Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)' when referring to recycling processing in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document under the following existing areas:

*What is the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre?
Will garbage or recycling be processed or sorted at these facilities?*

In addition, the following response will be added to our FAQs document:

How will fire safety be addressed in the design and operation of the ERRC?

Ensuring the safe design and operation of this facility is paramount. Meeting all regulatory requirements, design measures will include fire detection and warning systems, fire suppression systems (such as sprinklers), building layout, ensuring available on-site water supply, and creating appropriate separation distances, as required by the Ontario Building Code. On the operations side, a fire prevention plan will be enacted to ensure that site personnel and visitors are aware of implemented fire safety protocols and receive appropriate training. As at our other County waste management facilities, this plan will include regular maintenance and inspection protocols, designating areas for smoking, and managing the quantity of material stored on-site. In addition, a fire response plan will be prepared in consultation with the local municipality.

We note that at this time, the application for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for the ERRC will not seek permission for recycling processing or MRF operations. Should operations at this facility be expanded in the future to include this, the environmental approvals process would need to be undertaken again through the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). This process would include consideration for noise, air emissions, fire protection, and other operations specific to a MRF. Opportunity for public review and submission of comments to the MOECC would be provided through the Environmental Registry.

I hope that this provides some clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Marshall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gerry Marshall
Warden, County of Simcoe
Mayor, Town of Penetanguishene

cc. Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
Debbie Korolnek, P.Eng., General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment
Rob McCullough, Director, Solid Waste Management, County of Simcoe

From: The Mercers [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 11:09 AM

To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>; Wauchope, Gord <Gord.Wauchope@simcoe.ca>; Warnock, Scott <Scott.Warnock@simcoe.ca>; Walma, Steffen <Steffen.Walma@simcoe.ca>; Vanderkruys, Chris <Chris.Vanderkruys@simcoe.ca>; Smith, Jamie <Jamie.Smith@simcoe.ca>; Smith, Brian F. <BrianF.Smith@simcoe.ca>; Small Brett, Mary <Mary.SmallBrett@simcoe.ca>; Sauderson, Brian <Brian.Sauderson@simcoe.ca>; Ross, Mike <Mike.Ross@simcoe.ca>; Rawson, Bill <Bill.Rawson@simcoe.ca>; O'Donnell, John <John.ODonnell@simcoe.ca>; Milne, Rick <Rick.Milne@simcoe.ca>; McKay, Gord A. <Gord.McKay@simcoe.ca>; Macdonald, Sandie C. <Sandie.Macdonald@simcoe.ca>; Little, Doug <Doug.Little@simcoe.ca>; Leduc, James <James.Leduc@simcoe.ca>; Keffer, Rob <rob.keffer@simcoe.ca>; Hughes, Harry <Harry.Hughes@simcoe.ca>; Hough, Ralph <Ralph.Hough@simcoe.ca>; Dubeau, Anita <Anita.Dubeau@simcoe.ca>; Dollin, Lynn <Lynn.Dollin@simcoe.ca>; Cox, Judith <Judith.Cox@simcoe.ca>; Cornell, George <George.Cornell@simcoe.ca>; Cooper, Sandra <Sandra.Cooper@simcoe.ca>; Clarke, Basil <Basil.Clarke@simcoe.ca>; Burton, Barry <Barry.Burton@simcoe.ca>; Burkett, Mike <Mike.Burkett@simcoe.ca>; Bifulchi, Nina <Nina.Bifulchi@simcoe.ca>; Allen, Don <Don.Allen@simcoe.ca>; French, Bill <Bill.French@simcoe.ca>; Dowdall, Terry <Terry.Dowdall@simcoe.ca>

Cc: French, Bill <bill.french@springwater.ca>; Allen, Don <don.allen@springwater.ca>; jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca; jack.hanna@springwater.ca; katy.austin@springwater.ca; perry.ritchie@springwater.ca; Daly, John <John.Daly@simcoe.ca>

Subject: Re: Future expansion to a full MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) in the Freele Forest

Dear Mr. Marshall and Members of Council

Our family contacted you with our heartfelt concerns in a letter dated November 25, 2016. We have received a response and now would very much appreciate your time to review our communication response back.

Our family feels threatened by the location of this high risk facility in the Freele forest next to our property and home. With the recent relocation moving even closer to families and homes, we have serious, legitimate concerns and fear for the safety of our family and our forest.

One representative from our family attended a facility tour with County staff on Wednesday November 2, 2016. During the tour of the Guelph facility, the guide (Phil) when asked about fires, informed the group that there are frequently fires in the **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)** and that fires are a fairly common occurrence. It was suggested during this brief discussion that a **MRF** is not relevant to our tour and the discussion ended quickly. The information you provided from the staff reports suggests the opposite, that the **MRF** is quite relevant. During the tour, discussion in regards to the **MRF** appeared to be discouraged as being irrelevant and the residents that took time out of their busy schedules to be there that day missed an opportunity to be able to see, *learn about* and tour the **MRF** portion of the Guelph facility.

Staff reports appear to make suggestions such as “possible future expansion of recycling processing” but don’t appear to make clear mention to a **Materials Recovery**

Facility (MRF). Home owners and the public made efforts to learn the definitions for terminologies such as OPF (Organics Processing Facility), MMF (Materials Management Facility) and TSF (Truck Servicing Facility) as the County used these terms up front and centre in the public literature they produced. It seems reasonable that the public would expect the County to use the term **MRF** alongside OPF, MMF and TSF.

We feel disconcerted about the potential possibilities and future intentions for use of the Freele forest as do we presume other home owners and the general public.

Please note that our last letter was sent from six people in our home yet only one was addressed in the response letter from the County. We kindly ask that you address any responses in regards to this letter to the Mercer family and the Dunlop family as to not exclude the concerns of any one individual in our family.

Sincerely,

The Mercer Family &
The Dunlop Family
1601 Rainbow Valley Road E.
Phelpston, On. L0L 2K0



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simcoe.ca

December 1, 2016

Ms. Cindy Mercer
1601 Rainbow Valley Road East
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

Dear Ms. Mercer:

**RE: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to e-mail dated November 25, 2016**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence (received by e-mail on November 25, 2016) in regard to the potential for processing of blue box recyclables at the County's Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) and the revised footprint location. Please note that this response has been prepared with the assistance of County staff as it contains some specific technical content.

For clarity, the please note the following definitions used in this correspondence:

Materials Management Facility (MMF) – a location for consolidation and transfer of waste (garbage, blue box recycling, and organics) from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) – a specialized sorting facility that separates recycling (using a combination of mechanical and manual sorting methods), bales it, and then sends the material to manufacturers to be made into new products. Collected blue box material is sorted, for example, into various plastics, aluminum, glass, etc. and fibres is sorted into different grades of paper, boxboard, and cardboard.

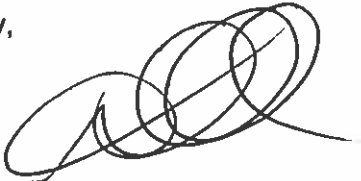
We were surprised that you "*feel as though the County has not been forthcoming about the very possible potential uses and long-term intentions for this facility*". For reference, please find attached a lengthy list of staff reports and communication material (including notes from the neighbouring landowner meetings which you attended) that clearly communicates our intention that this facility will have the potential to expand operations to include recycling processing (a Materials Recovery Facility). These reports can be found in their entirety at www.simcoe.ca/errc and, in addition, communication material referenced was provided to 500 m landowners at the meetings held in March and September.

To confirm, space for potential future recycling processing (a MRF) has been considered in the plans for the ERRC (both in the footprint size and conceptual site plan). As you noted, secured funding from the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) for the MMF is indeed contingent on the ability to expand operations to include processing of blue box recycling. It is noted, however, that given the tonnages of blue box recycling currently collected by the County and pending details of new provincial waste legislation, expansion to a MRF is not viable at this time (noted in staff report *Item CCW 14-253 – Transfer Facility Assessment, August 12, 2014*).

Information on the revised location of the facility footprint was provided to County Council in Item CCW 16-376 on November 8, 2016. That report is available on the project webpage. Also, please note that on November 18, 2016, applications were submitted to Township of Springwater to further the required Official Plan and zoning by-law amendments for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Studies undertaken, including a conceptual site plan, will be made available on the County's Planning webpage following notification from the Township that the application is deemed complete.

We hope that this information provides some clarification.

Sincerely,



Gerry Marshall
Warden, County of Simcoe
Mayor, Town of Penetanguishene

- cc. Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
Debbie Korolnek, P.Eng., General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment
Rob McCullough, Director, Solid Waste Management, County of Simcoe



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simcoe.ca



County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre Information Provided on Potential Expansion to Process Recycling

Item CCW 14-253 – Transfer Facility Assessment (August 12, 2014)

- financial analysis for the Materials Management Facility (MMF) undertaken – Staff notes that the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) would require that the facility be built such that a full recyclables Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) could be developed in future, if necessary (page 3)
- Staff recommends that siting a transfer facility allow for potential expansion to incorporate a MRF (which would include both fibres and containers processing) should it prove to be a viable option in the future (page 5)

Item CCW 14-344 – Transfer Facility Funding Update (August 26, 2014)

- noted the following contingency for funding – design of the facility to allow for its potential future expansion to accommodate a full Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and involvement of CIF staff in the design (page 2)

Item CCW 15-078 – Materials Management Facility – Siting Methodology and Evaluation Criteria (February 26, 2015)

- presentation of the siting methodology – indicates that design of the facility will allow for potential future expansion to accommodate a full MRF (page 4)

County of Simcoe Materials Management Facility – Part 1 – Planning – Siting Methodology and Criteria (Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, February 2015)

- discussion of the CIF requirement for expansion space for MRF and determination of site size (pages 6, 7, and 15)

Public Consultation Presentation – October 2015 (presented at 10 Public Consultation Sessions)

- Slide 8 noted that the MMF would have potential for future recycling processing

Organics Processing Facility and Materials Management Facility – FAQs Issue 1 – dated October 8, 2015

noted on page 1:

What are these facilities?

A Materials Management Facility (MMF) is a location for consolidation and transfer of waste from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations. **There is the potential at this facility to co-locate a truck servicing facility and for future recycling processing.** An Organics Processing Facility (OPF) is a location where organics (green bin material, potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste and diapers) are processed and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.

One Site, One Solution – Get the Facts

March 2016

noted on page 1:

What are these facilities?

A Materials Management Facility (MMF) is a location for consolidation and transfer of waste from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations. **There is the potential at this facility to co-locate a truck servicing facility and for future recycling processing.** An Organics Processing Facility (OPF) is a location where organics green bin material (kitchen waste, soiled paper products, etc.), potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products) are processed and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.

noted on page 2:

Will garbage or recycling be processed or sorted at these facilities?

Garbage and blue box recycling taken to the facility will be transferred from our collection trucks into larger trailers for processing outside of the County. **However, secured funding is contingent on siting the facility so that recycling processing could be developed here in the future.** Organics accepted in the County's green bin program and potentially leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products will be processed into products such as compost or fertilizer.

Neighbouring Landowner Meeting Notes – from March 23, 2016 meeting of 500 m landowners
(provided in [Item CCW 16-191](#), Schedule 1)

noted on page 1:

- The property would only be used for Solid Waste Management services, there is a possibility that the County's truck fleet of ten trucks would be based out of this location which would require a building. **While funding requires room to expand the facility for recycling sorting at this time it is not reasonable for us to do it based on our tonnage.** Both the Organics Processing Facility and the Materials Management Facility are to be on this site.

One Site, One Solution – Get the Facts

September 2016

noted on page 2:

What is the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre?

There are two main facilities to be co-located at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – a Materials Management Facility (MMF) and an Organics Processing Facility (OPF).

Materials Management Facility (MMF) – a location for consolidation and transfer of waste (garbage, blue box recycling, and organics) from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations.

Organics Processing Facility (OPF) – a location where green bin material (kitchen waste, soiled paper products, etc.) and potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products are processed under controlled conditions and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.

Other – additional developments at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre include a Solid Waste Management truck servicing area, a public education area, and the **potential for future expansion to a recycling sorting facility.**

Will garbage or recycling be processed or sorted at these facilities?

Garbage and blue box recycling taken to the facility will be transferred from our collection trucks into larger trailers for processing outside of the County. **Funding for the MMF is contingent, however, that recycling processing (sorting) could be developed here in the future. This has been considered in the anticipated footprint for the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre.** Organics accepted in the County's green bin program and potentially leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products will be processed into products such as compost or fertilizer.

Neighbouring Landowner Meeting Notes – from September 8, 2016 meeting of 500 m landowners (provided in [Item CCW 16-357](#), Schedule 3)

noted on page 6:

- Organics waste processing is part of the plan, it has not changed by relabelling it. We are giving the whole site a moniker to try to describe in a short number of words what is happening on the site, Materials Management Facility, Organics Processing Facility, Solid Waste Management truck servicing, potential public education centre and **potential expansion in the future to recycling sorting.**

[One Site, One Solution – Get the Facts](#)
October 2016 (page 2)

From: CINDY MERCER [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, November 25, 2016 3:05 PM

To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>; Wauchope, Gord <Gord.Wauchope@simcoe.ca>; Warnock, Scott <Scott.Warnock@simcoe.ca>; Walma, Steffen <Steffen.Walma@simcoe.ca>; Vanderkruys, Chris <Chris.Vanderkruys@simcoe.ca>; Smith, Jamie <Jamie.Smith@simcoe.ca>; Smith, Brian F. <BrianF.Smith@simcoe.ca>; Small Brett, Mary <Mary.SmallBrett@simcoe.ca>; Sauderson, Brian <Brian.Sauderson@simcoe.ca>; Ross, Mike <Mike.Ross@simcoe.ca>; Rawson, Bill <Bill.Rawson@simcoe.ca>; O'Donnell, John <John.ODonnell@simcoe.ca>; Milne, Rick <Rick.Milne@simcoe.ca>; McKay, Gord A. <Gord.McKay@simcoe.ca>; Macdonald, Sandie C. <Sandie.Macdonald@simcoe.ca>; Little, Doug <Doug.Little@simcoe.ca>; Leduc, James <James.Leduc@simcoe.ca>; Keffer, Rob <rob.keffer@simcoe.ca>; Hughes, Harry <Harry.Hughes@simcoe.ca>; Hough, Ralph <Ralph.Hough@simcoe.ca>; Dubeau, Anita <Anita.Dubeau@simcoe.ca>; Dollin, Lynn <Lynn.Dollin@simcoe.ca>; Cox, Judith <Judith.Cox@simcoe.ca>; Cornell, George <George.Cornell@simcoe.ca>; Cooper, Sandra <Sandra.Cooper@simcoe.ca>; Clarke, Basil <Basil.Clarke@simcoe.ca>; Burton, Barry <Barry.Burton@simcoe.ca>; Burkett, Mike <Mike.Burkett@simcoe.ca>; Bifulchi, Nina <Nina.Bifulchi@simcoe.ca>; Allen, Don <Don.Allen@simcoe.ca>; French, Bill <Bill.French@simcoe.ca>; Dowdall, Terry <Terry.Dowdall@simcoe.ca>

Cc: French, Bill <bill.french@springwater.ca>; Allen, Don <don.allen@springwater.ca>; jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca; jack.hanna@springwater.ca; katy.austin@springwater.ca; perry.ritchie@springwater.ca; Daly, John <John.Daly@simcoe.ca>

Subject: Re: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre future expansion in Freele Forest

Friday November 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Marshall and Members of Council,

My family is contacting you for clarification in regards to the following paragraphs taken from the County of Simcoe, Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2015 5 year Update Current Status Report.

Pg. 55

CIF funding for this project was secured in late 2014. It guarantees funding 47% of blue box-related project costs to a maximum funding limit of \$2,187,840. This funding is contingent on the potential for the facility to be jointly utilized by other local municipal jurisdictions on a cost recovery basis and design of the facility to allow for potential future expansion to accommodate a full Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Pg. 61

CIF funding for the MMF is contingent on the potential expansion of the facility to a full MRF. Siting will consider the facility has the potential for expansion to process both fibres and containers should it prove to be a viable option in the future.

Our research has raised questions about the County's long-term plans for this facility in its entirety. Based on the two paragraphs above, we feel as though the County has not been forthcoming about the very possible potential uses and long-term intentions for

this facility and expansion in the Freele Forest. Please clarify the County's intentions to expand the MMF to a full MRF facility.

Through our own research, we just recently discovered that the facility is being relocated closer to our home which places our property within approx. 300-400 meters of this facility. We find it very disheartening that the County of Simcoe has chosen to place at risk the safety of our family, our home and our sensitive forest.

We represent three generations of family and each of us continues to deeply struggle to understand the County's decision to choose homes and forests as neighbours for this high risk facility rather than industrial businesses looking for growth in industrial areas.

Our family would appreciate receiving your response to our question in a timely manner.

Thank you,

*Randy, Cindy, Brayden & Jordan Mercer
Jerry and Sandra Dunlop*

Cc: County of Simcoe Clerk

Cc: Township of Springwater Council



County of Simcoe
Solid Waste Management
1110 Highway 26,
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December 8, 2016

Tim and Judy Knight
52 Lawrence Avenue
Minesing, ON L9X 0C6

**RE: County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Knight:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence (sent via e-mail to John Daly on November 30, 2016) in regard to development of the County's Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Mr. Daly has forwarded your correspondence to staff for response and to provide clarification on this project.

The County of Simcoe is committed to being environmental leaders and supporting infrastructure projects such as these that reflect our commitment to diversion, reducing garbage, and securely managing our own transfer and processing capacity. To provide some context, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is not required for this project, but the County has chosen to apply this methodology and go beyond what would be required to site this important infrastructure – infrastructure that will enable us to effectively and responsibly deliver services to all County residents.

Many of your comments have been addressed in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, which can be found on the project webpage at www.simcoe.ca/errc. We have also enclosed a copy for reference. The following questions are addressed in the FAQs:

How was the preferred location determined?
Were only County forests considered as potential sites?
Why were there no industrial sites on the short list?
Was groundwater considered when selecting the preferred site?
Will there be any impacts to soils or surrounding agricultural land?
What will an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) include?
What will be the impact of the additional traffic to this area?

In response to fire safety, the following will be added to our FAQs:

How will fire safety be addressed in the design and operation of the ERRC?

Ensuring the safe design and operation of this facility is paramount. Meeting all regulatory requirements, design measures will include fire detection and warning systems, fire suppression systems (such as sprinklers), building layout, ensuring available on-site water supply, and creating appropriate separation distances, as required by the Ontario Building Code. On the operations

side, a fire prevention plan will be enacted to ensure that site personnel and visitors are aware of implemented fire safety protocols and receive appropriate training. As at our other County waste management facilities, this plan will include regular maintenance and inspection protocols, designating areas for smoking, and managing the quantity of material stored on-site. In addition, a fire response plan will be prepared in consultation with the local municipality.

Please note that on November 18, 2016, applications were submitted to Township of Springwater to further the required Official Plan and zoning by-law amendments for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Studies undertaken, including the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and Traffic Impact Study (TIS), will be made available on the County's Planning webpage following notification from the Township that the application is deemed complete. Opportunity for public input will be part of the upcoming Planning process.

Regards,



Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management

cc. Mr. John Daly, Director of Legislative Services and County Clerk

From: freemoth [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:59 AM
To: Daly, John <John.Daly@simcoe.ca>
Subject: Opposition to Materials Handling and Organic Processing Facility

Dear Warden and Members of Council,

We are writing to oppose the building and operation of a waste transfer and industrial scale composting facility in the Freele Tract of Simcoe County Forests. Converting a valuable forestry ecosystems into an industrial processing plant is an extremely poor and frankly irresponsible idea.

The Freele Tract is recognized as an important habitat for wildlife and contains a wetland area that provides breeding grounds for amphibians and many other animals. Wetlands are also vital groundwater filters purifying and creating drinking water and therefore extremely important for all of us. Ecosystems like these should be protected at all costs.

Dropping a recycling plant into the middle of a forest, in an area that completely lacks the necessary industrial infrastructure not only poses an environmental risk it sets a dangerous precedent for the industrial development of other forest properties in Simcoe County.

This is also particularly disturbing because there are already industrially zoned areas, with the necessary infrastructure, that would be much better suited near Hwy 93 and Hwy 11. Situating a processing plant in a spot capable of handling the constant truck traffic that comes with this type of facility makes much more sense.

As others have noted there is an ongoing risk for fire in recycling plants and we agree that placing a fire hazard in the middle of a forest is very risky. However, we are more concerned about potential damage this facility will bring to the environment, area farms, and our aquifer.

As Anten Mills residents we are close to Horseshoe Valley Road (Hwy 22) which is already an increasingly busy roadway. The added truck traffic that this site will bring to the area is very disturbing from both a noise and a safety perspective.

Originally from Toronto we moved to Anten Mills to get away from the constant hustle and bustle. To quote a friend of mine: "There are reasons people move up here." We don't think recycling plants is one of them.

We urge you to locate industrial sites like these in areas that have the necessary infrastructure and are already zoned as industrial or for commercial purposes. Our forests should not be used for industrial activities. Forests are valuable environmental assets sustaining life and contributing to the well-being of all of us. They should be protected not developed.

Sincerely,

Tim and Judy Knight

52 Lawrence Ave.

Anten Mills, Ontario



County of Simcoe
Office of the Warden
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Main Line (705) 726-9300
Toll Free (866) 893-9300
Fax (705) 725-1285
simcoe.ca

December 2, 2016

Mary Wagner
2928 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, ON L0L 2K0

Dear Ms. Wagner:

**RE: Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to e-mail dated November 27, 2016**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated November 28, 2016 (received by e-mail on November 27, 2016) in regard to the relocated footprint and potential for processing of blue box recyclables at the County's Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). We note that your letter, although addressed to Mr. McCullough and Ms. Korolnek, has not yet been received by them. This response has been prepared with the assistance of County staff as it contains some specific technical content and as such, please also consider this letter as response to your correspondence to staff.

Information on the revised location of the facility footprint was provided to County Council in Item CCW 16-376 on November 8, 2016 (notification of this report was sent to the project contact list on November 2, 2016). That report is available on the project webpage. Also, please note that on November 18, 2016, applications were submitted to Township of Springwater to further the required Official Plan and zoning by-law amendments for 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Studies undertaken, including a conceptual site plan, will be made available on the County's Planning webpage following notification from the Township that the application is deemed complete. Opportunity for public input will be part of the upcoming Planning process.

In regard to your comments regarding future recycling processing at this location, we provide the following information, noting these definitions:

Materials Management Facility (MMF) – a location for consolidation and transfer of waste (garbage, blue box recycling, and organics) from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) – a specialized sorting facility that separates recycling (using a combination of mechanical and manual sorting methods), bales it, and then sends the material to manufacturers to be made into new products. Collected blue box material is sorted, for example, into various plastics, aluminum, glass, etc. and fibres are sorted into different grades of paper, boxboard, and cardboard.

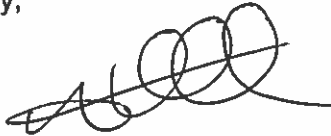
To confirm, space for potential future recycling processing, a Materials Recycling facility (MRF), has been considered in the plans for the ERRC (both in the footprint size and conceptual site plan). As you noted, secured funding from the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) for the MMF is indeed contingent on the ability to expand operations to include processing of blue box recycling. It is noted; however, that given the tonnages of blue box recycling currently collected by the County and pending details of new provincial waste legislation, expansion to a MRF is not viable at this time (noted in staff report *Item CCW 14-253 – Transfer Facility Assessment, August 12, 2014*).

With respect to your direct point – *“Please confirm the County’s intent to expand and place a Materials Recovery Facility within this project. Simple yes or no answer please”* – we cannot provide the simple answer you request as your supposition that we are expanding the project to include a MRF is incorrect. The *potential* for a future MRF on this property has always been part of the project’s intent.

In that regard, please find attached a lengthy list of staff reports and communication material (including notes from the neighbouring landowner meetings which you attended) that clearly communicates our intention that this facility will have the potential to expand operations to include recycling processing (a MRF). These reports can be found in their entirety at www.simcoe.ca/errc and, in addition, communication material referenced was provided to 500 m landowners at the meetings held in March and September.

We hope that this information provides some clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Marshall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gerry Marshall
Warden, County of Simcoe
Mayor, Town of Penetanguishene

cc. Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
Debbie Korolnek, P.Eng., General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment
Rob McCullough, Director, Solid Waste Management, County of Simcoe



County of Simcoe
Solid Waste Management
1110 Highway 26,
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County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre Information Provided on Potential Expansion to Process Recycling

Item CCW 14-253 – Transfer Facility Assessment (August 12, 2014)

- financial analysis for the Materials Management Facility (MMF) undertaken – Staff notes that the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) would require that the facility be built such that a full recyclables Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) could be developed in future, if necessary (page 3)
- Staff recommends that siting a transfer facility allow for potential expansion to incorporate a MRF (which would include both fibres and containers processing) should it prove to be a viable option in the future (page 5)

Item CCW 14-344 – Transfer Facility Funding Update (August 26, 2014)

- noted the following contingency for funding – design of the facility to allow for its potential future expansion to accommodate a full Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and involvement of CIF staff in the design (page 2)

Item CCW 15-078 – Materials Management Facility – Siting Methodology and Evaluation Criteria (February 26, 2015)

- presentation of the siting methodology – indicates that design of the facility will allow for potential future expansion to accommodate a full MRF (page 4)

County of Simcoe Materials Management Facility – Part 1 – Planning – Siting Methodology and Criteria (Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, February 2015)

- discussion of the CIF requirement for expansion space for MRF and determination of site size (pages 6, 7, and 15)

Public Consultation Presentation – October 2015 (presented at 10 Public Consultation Sessions)

- Slide 8 noted that the MMF would have potential for future recycling processing

Organics Processing Facility and Materials Management Facility – FAQs

Issue 1 – dated October 8, 2015

noted on page 1:

What are these facilities?

A Materials Management Facility (MMF) is a location for consolidation and transfer of waste from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations. **There is the potential at this facility to co-locate a truck servicing facility and for future recycling processing.** An Organics Processing Facility (OPF) is a location where organics (green bin material, potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste and diapers) are processed and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.

One Site, One Solution – Get the Facts
March 2016

noted on page 1:

What are these facilities?

A Materials Management Facility (MMF) is a location for consolidation and transfer of waste from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations. **There is the potential at this facility to co-locate a truck servicing facility and for future recycling processing.** An Organics Processing Facility (OPF) is a location where organics green bin material (kitchen waste, soiled paper products, etc.), potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products) are processed and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.

noted on page 2:

Will garbage or recycling be processed or sorted at these facilities?

Garbage and blue box recycling taken to the facility will be transferred from our collection trucks into larger trailers for processing outside of the County. **However, secured funding is contingent on siting the facility so that recycling processing could be developed here in the future.** Organics accepted in the County's green bin program and potentially leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products will be processed into products such as compost or fertilizer.

Neighbouring Landowner Meeting Notes – from March 23, 2016 meeting of 500 m landowners
(provided in [Item CCW 16-191](#), Schedule 1)

noted on page 1:

- The property would only be used for Solid Waste Management services, there is a possibility that the County's truck fleet of ten trucks would be based out of this location which would require a building. **While funding requires room to expand the facility for recycling sorting at this time it is not reasonable for us to do it based on our tonnage.** Both the Organics Processing Facility and the Materials Management Facility are to be on this site.

One Site, One Solution – Get the Facts
September 2016

noted on page 2:

What is the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre?

There are two main facilities to be co-located at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre – a Materials Management Facility (MMF) and an Organics Processing Facility (OPF).

Materials Management Facility (MMF) – a location for consolidation and transfer of waste (garbage, blue box recycling, and organics) from multiple collection vehicles for more economical shipment to other disposal or processing locations.

Organics Processing Facility (OPF) – a location where green bin material (kitchen waste, soiled paper products, etc.) and potentially materials such as leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products are processed under controlled conditions and converted into other valuable products, such as compost or fertilizer.

Other – additional developments at the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre include a Solid Waste Management truck servicing area, a public education area, and the **potential for future expansion to a recycling sorting facility.**

Will garbage or recycling be processed or sorted at these facilities?

Garbage and blue box recycling taken to the facility will be transferred from our collection trucks into larger trailers for processing outside of the County. **Funding for the MMF is contingent, however, that recycling processing (sorting) could be developed here in the future. This has been considered in the anticipated footprint for the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre.** Organics accepted in the County's green bin program and potentially leaf and yard waste, pet waste, diapers, and sanitary products will be processed into products such as compost or fertilizer.

Neighbouring Landowner Meeting Notes – from September 8, 2016 meeting of 500 m landowners (provided in [Item CCW 16-357](#), Schedule 3)

noted on page 6:

- Organics waste processing is part of the plan, it has not changed by relabelling it. We are giving the whole site a moniker to try to describe in a short number of words what is happening on the site, Materials Management Facility, Organics Processing Facility, Solid Waste Management truck servicing, potential public education centre and **potential expansion in the future to recycling sorting.**

One Site, One Solution – Get the Facts

October 2016 (page 2)

From: Mary Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2016 10:13 AM
To: Smith, Jamie <Jamie.Smith@simcoe.ca>; Milne, Rick <Rick.Milne@simcoe.ca>; Ross, Mike <Mike.Ross@simcoe.ca>; Bifulchi, Nina <Nina.Bifulchi@simcoe.ca>; Wauchope, Gord <Gord.Wauchope@simcoe.ca>; Vanderkruys, Chris <Chris.Vanderkruys@simcoe.ca>; Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>; Dollin, Lynn <Lynn.Dollin@simcoe.ca>; Saunderson, Brian <Brian.Saunderson@simcoe.ca>; Dubeau, Anita <Anita.Dubeau@simcoe.ca>; Allen, Don <Don.Allen@simcoe.ca>; Burkett, Mike <Mike.Burkett@simcoe.ca>; Cooper, Sandra <Sandra.Cooper@simcoe.ca>; Rawson, Bill <Bill.Rawson@simcoe.ca>; Hough, Ralph <Ralph.Hough@simcoe.ca>; Macdonald, Sandie C. <Sandie.Macdonald@simcoe.ca>; Smith, Brian F. <BrianF.Smith@simcoe.ca>; McKay, Gord A. <Gord.McKay@simcoe.ca>; Walma, Steffen <Steffen.Walma@simcoe.ca>; Little, Doug <Doug.Little@simcoe.ca>; Leduc, James <James.Leduc@simcoe.ca>; Dowdall, Terry <Terry.Dowdall@simcoe.ca>; Burton, Barry <Barry.Burton@simcoe.ca>; Keffer, Rob <rob.keffer@simcoe.ca>; Hughes, Harry <Harry.Hughes@simcoe.ca>; Cornell, George <George.Cornell@simcoe.ca>; Cox, Judith <Judith.Cox@simcoe.ca>; Small Brett, Mary <Mary.SmallBrett@simcoe.ca>; Warnock, Scott <Scott.Warnock@simcoe.ca>; French, Bill <Bill.French@simcoe.ca>; O'Donnell, John <John.O'Donnell@simcoe.ca>; Clarke, Basil <Basil.Clarke@simcoe.ca>
Subject: Answer to expansion to include MRF

Dear Councillors,

Attached please find letter written to County staff asking for confirmation that the County has intent to expand the Freele Forest project to include a Class III facility MRF. Within County's published documents funding has been sought and granted contingent upon this project becoming much more than advertised. I ask that this letter be entered into the public record.
Regards

Mary Wagner

Nov. 28th, 2016

Mr. McCulloch and Ms. Korolnek,

I am concerned upon reading in detail the paragraphs below that have been copied directly from the County of Simcoe Document, Solid Waste Management, Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2015 5-year Update Current Status Report.

My home and farm were originally just outside the 500 meter setback that appeared to be a fact you were very proud of. I recently read that my home was now to be within 350 meters of this facility as you are now relocating it within the site. This is a fact that I believe deserved a personal consultation or direct letter, not just some generic update.

I fail to understand how County of Simcoe must select a site that places the homeowner at risk. I draw my water from the ground, I have people and animals living in our home and a pond with fish we eat, all put more at risk from this reduced setback. I now read that in fact longterm plans are for a MRF, a Class III facility, and the County appears to care not at all about the negative impacts to me, a human being, not simply a "sensitive receptor".

You suggest that this is a case of Not In My Backyard concern. I reverse that and suggest you are in favour of this project because it is Not in Your Backyard.

Sadly I do not understand why it has to be in anyone's back yard or forest as the County has choices of industrial land that they fail to investigate or pursue.

Please confirm the County's intent to expand and place a Materials Recovery Facility within this project. Simple yes or no answer please.

Pg. 55

CIF funding for this project was secured in late 2014. It guarantees funding 47% of blue box-related project costs to a maximum funding limit of \$2,187,840. This funding is contingent on the potential for the facility to be jointly utilized by other local municipal jurisdictions on a cost recovery basis and design of the facility to allow for potential future expansion to accommodate a full Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Pg. 61

CIF funding for the MMF is contingent on the potential expansion of the facility to a full MRF. Siting will consider the facility has the potential for expansion to process both fibres and containers should it prove to be a viable option in the future.

I am copying this email to all County Council as well as County Clerk.
I await your response.

Regards
Mary Wagner



**County of Simcoe
Solid Waste Management**
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

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simcoe.ca



November 9, 2016

Mr. Gordon Grainger, Vice President
Broadview Strategy Group
1959 Upper Water Street
Suite 1301, Tower 1
Halifax, NS B3J 3N2

**RE: County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
Response to Correspondence dated November 3, 2016**

Dear Mr. Grainger,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your third correspondence (dated November 3, 2016, addressed to Warden Gerry Marshall) in regard to the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) currently under development at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Again, as your comments are technical in nature, the Warden has forwarded your correspondence to staff for response. We wish to address fire safety and the County's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, providing some clarification to statements made in your commentary.

As outlined in our previous responses, our FAQs document has been posted on our webpage www.simcoe.ca/errc.

Fire Safety

Ensuring the safe design and operation of this facility is paramount. Note that details in regard to fire safety will be addressed in forthcoming studies to be submitted with the Planning and Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) applications. In the interim, the following response will be added to our FAQs document:

How will fire safety be addressed in the design and operation of the ERRC?

Ensuring the safe design and operation of this facility is paramount. Meeting all regulatory requirements, design measures will include fire detection and warning systems, fire suppression systems (such as sprinklers), building layout, ensuring available on-site water supply, and creating appropriate separation distances, as required by the Ontario Building Code. On the operations side, a fire prevention plan will be enacted to ensure that site personnel and visitors are aware of implemented fire safety protocols and receive appropriate training. As at our other County waste management facilities, this plan will include regular maintenance and inspection protocols, designating areas for smoking, and managing the quantity of material stored on-site. In addition, a fire response plan will be prepared in consultation with the local municipality.

FSC Designation

As outlined in our response to Broadview Strategy Group dated October 28, 2016, we are proud of our long history of strong forestry stewardship and have addressed many questions regarding the Freele Tract in our FAQs.

We appreciate your comments regarding our Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. As presented at our Public Information Sessions in April 2016, County of Simcoe Forestry first achieved FSC certification in July 2010 and is widely recognized for its conservation efforts and ongoing forest expansion initiatives.

To clarify, the County Forester continues to work openly with auditors from Rainforest Alliance who will indeed be conducting stakeholder consultations in order to complete an audit required under FSC policy. Please note that this is not, as you stated, "*special*" or "*unusual*". FSC Policy 20-003 clearly recognizes that there are occasions when it is acceptable to exclude or 'excise' specific areas from a certified forest without the necessary loss of an FSC certificate from the remaining area. Rainforest Alliance staff have been fully aware of this project proposal since May 2016 and will be completing the necessary audit as part of their process – standard protocol – to ensure FSC compliance.

Again, we hope that the above provides some additional clarification on this important project.

Regards,



Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management Department

cc. Gerry Marshall, Warden, County of Simcoe
Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment, County of Simcoe

From: Gordon Grainger [<mailto:gordon.grainger@broadviewstrategygroup.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>
Subject: Safety and Insurance Concerns regarding Springwater ERRC

Warden Marshall;

The Friends of Simcoe Forests Inc. have serious concerns about the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre proposed for the Freele Tract in Springwater Township. We are writing to you on their behalf to help raise awareness of significant problems this project raises for the County and its residents.

On October 27, there was a fire at the Wasteco Plant in Hamilton. This is a recycling facility similar in nature to the one proposed for Simcoe County. This same facility had another fire back in April of this year. These are not an isolated incidents, as this location has had six fires in the last eight years.

Nor is it a problem isolated to that particular facility. Another waste facility in Edmonton, which had been touted as a “Centre of Excellence”, caught fire in August and prompted an air quality advisory for local residents. Six fire departments had to be called to fight a blaze at the BFI recycling plant here in Springwater Township three years ago.

A fire at a waste recycling facility in Cambridge last October caused millions of dollars of damage. There was a massive fire at an Ajax garbage waste disposal building last month. Three recycling centers in the United States caught fire on the same day last week – in Seattle, Indiana, and California.

There is a reason these facilities are rated F1 occupancy, which is the highest risk for building classification in the Ontario Building Code and Fire Code.

There is a reason other municipalities place these facilities away from the residential neighbourhoods they serve.

There is a reason every other municipality builds their recycling facilities on industrial land and not in the middle of flammable forests.

By choosing to build this facility among the trees of the Freele Tract, Council is taking an enormous risk. Fire is a known hazard of recycling facilities – even resting piles of composting organic material can self-combust. This facility endangers the safety and security of residents, and is a significant insurance risk for the municipality.

In addition, it is also endangering Simcoe County's FSC certification with Rainforest Alliance. The County worked very hard to attain this distinction in 2010, and as recently as last year was promoting this achievement on its website. Every year the Rainforest Alliance audits the County to ensure we remain committed to the principles of sound forest management, and the most recent audit was completed successfully in July.

However, with the news that Council is looking to convert a century-old forest tract to an industrial site, the Rainforest Alliance has ordered a special audit. This is an unusual and disturbing development that suggests they too are deeply concerned about this plan.

Considering all the time, money, and effort the County placed into securing the FSC certification, why would Council choose to throw that all away instead of finding a suitable piece of industrial land?

We would like to hear from you on this matter, and we know your voice is important.

These questions are being raised now because these facilities are a known fire hazard, and when an incident happens at this site it will be very difficult to contain to just the facility. What happened in Fort McMurray could easily happen here, and you will need to justify your vote when it does.

Council can avoid the enormous risk this project holds for residents and the County simply by beginning a search for a proper industrial location for this project. We hope to be able to engage with you on this and other issues we will continue to raise over the coming weeks to encourage a dialogue that would see this issue resolved without protracted conflict between residents and the County.

We hope to be able to work productively with you and other members of Council to resolve this in a manner that is a win-win for all involved.

Sincerely,

Gordon Grainger

Vice President

Broadview Strategy Group

Phone: 1-647-748-3300, ext. 902

Atlantic: 1-902-405-8780, ext. 902

Toll Free: 1-866-206-3709

www.broadviewstrategygroup.com



October 28, 2016

Mr. Gordon Grainger, Vice President
Broadview Strategy Group
1959 Upper Water Street
Suite 1301, Tower 1
Halifax, NS B3J 3N2

RE: County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre

Dear Mr. Grainger,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your second correspondence (dated October 25, 2016, addressed to Warden Gerry Marshall) in regard to the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre currently under development at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. Again, as your comments are technical in nature, the Warden has forwarded your correspondence to staff to provide an additional response to that addressing your comments sent previously on October 18, 2016. We wish to address several of your statements concerning approvals, costs, traffic, and siting and clarify some inaccuracies in your commentary.

As outlined in our previous response, our FAQs document has been posted on our webpage www.simcoe.ca/errc.

Approval Process

Your statement implying that we are “*applying a different standard to this project simply because [the County] is also the proponent*” is incorrect. We have taken numerous steps to go beyond what is required for development of this infrastructure, understanding the sensitive nature of developing waste management facilities. This has included retaining an industry-leading consulting team, furthering the siting process utilizing Environmental Assessment (EA) methodology (noting again that an EA is not required), and undertaking extensive consultation with the public, Aboriginal communities, and stakeholders (including neighbours).

This facility will be developed to meet all provincial and municipal requirements and the County, as the proponent, will adhere to all regulations and permitting requirements. Currently, consultation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), and the Township of Springwater is ongoing and will continue as approvals are sought.

Costs

We appreciate your comments on the costs of developing this infrastructure as it is our desire to provide quality and cost-effective services for our residents. This project is no exception. We have completed a financial analysis for the Materials Management Facility (MMF) and noted the potential to save over \$13 M in contract costs over the next 20 years (translating to a 5.5 year payback for this infrastructure). In regard to the Organics Processing Facility (OPF), a feasibility study has already been undertaken and determined that this is a viable option for the County.

Further, studies being completed at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater, will determine site-specific development costs. Following completion of these studies and the procurement process for organics processing technology, a full business case for the OPF will be presented to County Council for their further direction.

This has been clearly outlined in various staff reports (all provided on our webpage). In addition, details on associated costs for development of the MMF and OPF have been provided in response to the following, found under *Financial Considerations* in our FAQs:

- What are the anticipated costs for the facility?
- Was a business case completed for the MMF?
- Will costs of the MMF be updated now that the siting is complete?
- When will the business case be developed for the OPF? Why has it not been undertaken?
- What will the OPF business case consider?

Traffic Impact Study

During the siting process, consideration was provided to transportation as outlined in GHD Limited's siting reports (all provided on our webpage). It is noted that siting considered both existing and required transportation infrastructure and neighbourhood traffic impacts. Further, the forthcoming Traffic Impact Study (TIS) will outline site-specific details regarding the impact of traffic associated with this facility and required upgrades to Horseshoe Valley Road (County Road 22) to support development of this important facility. Responses to the following have been outlined in our FAQs under *Transportation*:

- Was transportation considered in the siting evaluation?
- What will be the impact of the additional traffic to this area?
- What is a Traffic Impact Study (TIS)?
- Are road alterations needed to accommodate traffic turning in and out of the site?

Siting

In regard to your comments regarding siting and “*identifying the needs of the project*” first, the siting criteria for both facilities was extensive and, to clarify, established prior to determining the list of candidate sites. In addition, it was presented to the public in late 2014 and feedback received resulted in some changes to the criteria. Information on this and the evaluation process can be found in GHD’s first siting reports for both the OPF and MMF.

The process undertaken to compile a list of willing vendor sites for evaluation was clearly outlined in *Item CCW 15-229 – Solid Waste Management Infrastructure Projects – Siting Process Update* (June 23, 2015), found on the project webpage. On page 3 to 4, it provides a summary of the search for willing vendor sites which was conducted through the County’s Procurement, Fleet and Property Department (PF&P) with the assistance of a registered broker.

As has been communicated to near neighbours regarding seeking an alternative site, we will not speculate on the theoretical. The siting process, which was conducted in a prudent and responsible manner, utilizing established EA methodology – is complete. This process went well beyond what would be required for siting these facilities. The development process will now go forward, as directed, with finalizing studies to confirm site conditions and furthering of Planning approvals.

Again, we hope that the above provides some additional clarification on this important project.

Regards,



Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management Department

cc. Gerry Marshall, Warden, County of Simcoe
Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment, County of Simcoe

From: Gordon Grainger [<mailto:gordon.grainger@broadviewstrategygroup.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 3:46 PM
To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>
Cc: John Laforet <john.laforet@broadviewstrategygroup.com>
Subject: Infrastructure Concerns with Proposed Environmental Resource Recovery Centre

Warden Marshall;

I am writing to you on behalf of our client, Friends of Simcoe Forests Inc. about the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre proposed for the Freele Tract in Springwater Township. We have been retained to work with them to resolve the concerns related to this proposal.

Friends of Simcoe Forests Inc. have grave concerns regarding the cost of taking property from the County's forestry lands that it has spent a century reclaiming from wasteland, and converting it to industrial use, for waste management purposes. There are significant infrastructure differences between currently zoned industrial land and forests which we do not believe have been adequately considered.

If another proponent, such as a commercial enterprise, brought this plan before the County, there is little reason to believe that you would endorse a plan to allow the kind of rezoning you are requesting, in large part due to the infrastructure issues associated with the site. The County should not be applying a different standard to this project simply because it is also the proponent, to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest at the very least.

While the County is looking at cost savings by eliminating the acquisition cost of the land, the conversion cost to take forest land and repurpose it for industrial use is significant. Road, water, sewer, and electrical engineering is required, all virtually from scratch, where all these elements pre-exist in a current industrial area.

The road network around industrial lands is engineered to withstand the heavier loads and continual truck traffic inherent in an industrial use. Spending several millions of dollars upgrading Horseshoe Valley Road to this same standard, and for the sole benefit of this one single project is a phenomenal waste. In industrial zones, multiple industrial customers share the benefits, which justify the increased expense.

By bringing an initial 87 trucks per day (and eventually 200 trucks), this facility will change the character of traffic on these and surrounding roads. Evenly spread, that works out to one truck every 7.5 minutes throughout an 11 hour day, or one every 3.3 minutes at full capacity. For an industrial area this would not be an issue, but in an area of forests and farms it is entirely out of character.

There is also the issue of odour. While there are abatement options for the facility itself, driving dozens of trucks loaded with waste into and out of this facility, through farmland and forest, could spread the smell over a much larger area. Again, in a currently industrial setting this is not as significant.

We understand the County's position that no suitable industrial area was identified, but this was the result of a flawed process. Looking on MLS and placing a newspaper ad is not adequate. The MLS listing would only show properties being actively sold, and would miss lands held by owners who might be considering selling. A newspaper ad is easily missed, and landowners would have no idea if their property was suitable for this project.

Instead, the proper process would have been to identify the needs of the project and go looking for the perfect site – and this would start with an industrial location. Looking at available sites and picking the most suitable from those available is exactly the opposite of a responsible process. The County should have identified the needs of the project first, and then looked at locations that best matched those needs. We are confident a suitable industrial site would have been identified, and then acquisition of this land could have been pursued. We are aware of current industrial sites where local municipal support is likely available, but the County refuses to engage in any discussion on this topic. Why?

We would like to hear from you on this matter, and we know your voice is important. We will be attempting to contact you by phone directly next week to hear your thoughts on this subject.

It is important to remember you are not ultimately bound to proceed with this facility at this site, if Council deems it not prudent to do so.

Council can avoid the enormous costs of converting forest land to industrial use simply by beginning a search for a proper industrial location for this project. We hope to be able to engage with you on this and other issues we will continue to raise over the coming weeks to encourage a dialogue that would see this issue resolved without protracted conflict between residents and the County.

There are industrial lands available that are more suitable to this project, that have the necessary infrastructure in place, that suit the high volume and odour of traffic expected, and do not require reversing a century of positive environmental forestry stewardship. It is truly up to you and your colleagues whether you're prepared to justify all of that for this project.

We hope to be able to work productively with you and other members of Council to resolve this in a manner that is a win-win for all involved.

Sincerely,

Gordon Grainger

Vice President

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October 28, 2016

Mr. Gordon Grainger, Vice President
Broadview Strategy Group
1959 Upper Water Street
Suite 1301, Tower 1
Halifax, NS B3J 3N2

RE: County of Simcoe – Environmental Resource Recovery Centre

Dear Mr. Grainger,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence (dated October 18, 2016, addressed to Warden Gerry Marshall) in regard to the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre currently under development at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Springwater. We appreciate your interest in this important project. As your comments are technical in nature, the Warden has forwarded your correspondence to staff to provide a response. We wish to address several of your statements concerning siting, buffer distances, forestry, archeology, and natural features – noting that there are some inaccuracies in your commentary.

Siting

No matter the numerous benefits of this facility, siting is a challenging undertaking. We understand that – and the siting process was not taken lightly. Our lead consultant, GHD Limited (GHD), have extensive experience developing these types of projects and the siting exercise went beyond what was required. The siting process was designed to be consistent with Environment Assessment (EA) methodology even though the EA process was not required. Details on the comprehensive siting process (including the various siting criteria applied to 502 prospective sites) and response to your specific comments regarding consideration of industrial sites, can be found in our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. Response is provided to the following:

- How was the preferred location determined?
- Were only County forests considered as potential sites?
- Why wasn't a County landfill site selected as the preferred site?
- Why were there no industrial sites on the short list?

Please note that the FAQs document has been posted on our webpage www.simcoe.ca/errc and, in addition, attached for your reference.

Buffer Distances

As outlined in the siting reports prepared by GHD (also found on the project webpage), both the distance to and number of sensitive receptors were important considerations in determining the preferred location. For clarity, it should be noted that there are no specific requirements for buffer distances to this type of facility. Site-specific studies are undertaken, however, to determine impacts from the facility (such as noise and odour) and, if required, appropriate mitigation measures.

Determining the site layout (and subsequent buffer distances), technology selection, and design are all considered to be important factors in mitigation of impacts. This is outlined in our response to the following questions, found in our FAQs:

- Why did candidate sites have to be so large? Will the facility take up this much space?
- Will nearby neighbours be impacted by odours?
- Will nearby neighbours be impacted by noise from the facility?
- How will the final location of the facility footprint be determined?

It should be noted that we have confirmed with the City of Guelph that their organics processing facility has sensitive receptors located within approximately 350 m of their building – not 820 m as stated in your e-mail. Although you provided few details on the other facilities you were referencing, we note that the City of Toronto's Dufferin Organics Processing Facility has sensitive receptors located under 300 m away, with a dense residential neighbourhood located approximately 480 m from their building. The Disco Road Green Bin Facility has a sensitive receptor located approximately 500 m away.

Forestry

We are proud of our long history of strong forestry stewardship. Our forest is the largest municipally-owned forest in Ontario and one of the largest in Canada. We own over 32,600 acres of protected forest lands across 150 different properties – and we continue to invest in expanding the forest by acquiring new land. To be clear, the proposed facility would only span across 11 acres of the 207 acre Freele Tract. The rest of the Freele Tract – approximately 95% – will remain. To put this into perspective, this infrastructure will utilize only 11 acres of 32,600 total acres that makes up the Simcoe County Forest.

We have addressed many questions regarding the Freele Tract, including those listed below, in our FAQs:

- If only five hectares is required, what will happen to the rest of the tract?
- What will the County do to mitigate the impact on the forest?

Planning Studies

We assure you that your noted concerns regarding archeological and natural heritage features will be addressed in forthcoming studies required for Planning applications. These comprehensive studies are being advanced in consultation with the local municipality, conservation authority, and provincial agencies. Provided in our FAQs is a full list of the studies that are required and, in addition, our response to common questions regarding Planning approvals such as:

- What Planning studies will be undertaken?
- Will the impact on wildlife be studied?
- What will an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) include?

In regard to your comments on the archeological find, preliminary details were presented to County Council in September – which noted that this will not preclude development. Further archeological work has been undertaken to ensure that the County adheres to all provincial and municipal legislation which, as clarification, will not permit “*building over archeological sites*”. Your comment that “*the site's archaeological features and environmentally sensitive elements that make re-siting the facility within the Freele Tract next to impossible if you are to avoid all archaeological features and all environmentally sensitive areas, while respecting the bare bones 300 metre setback that is recommended for projects of this nature*” is incorrect. We reiterate that the results of all studies, which are being conducted by experts in this field, are still forthcoming and the final location of the footprint will consider all factors (as noted in the FAQs).

We hope that the above provides some clarification on your submitted commentary. Again, should you require more details, all consultant and staff reports are provided on the project webpage, in addition to storyboards presented at the numerous Public Consultation and Information Sessions which have been previously undertaken.

Regards,



Rob McCullough
Director, Solid Waste Management Department

cc. Gerry Marshall, Warden, County of Simcoe
 Terry Dowdall, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
 Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe
 Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment, County of Simcoe

From: Gordon Grainger [<mailto:gordon.grainger@broadviewstrategygroup.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 12:36 PM

To: Warden <Warden@simcoe.ca>

Cc: John Laforet <john.laforet@broadviewstrategygroup.com>

Subject: Important Information Regarding Simcoe County's Proposed Environmental Resource Recovery Centre

Dear Warden Marshall;

I am writing to you on behalf of our client, Friends of Simcoe Forests Inc. about the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre proposed for the Freele Tract in Springwater Township, to highlight important concerns with the siting of this proposed project. We have been retained to work with them to resolve the concerns related to this proposal.

The location of this facility is surprising, considering the industrial land available within Simcoe County that has been overlooked, in favour of removing acres of land from a working forest, counter to the Simcoe County's own 20 year forestry plan.

We have been searching for comparable projects constructed on comparable properties and have reviewed Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, and Guelph so far, and we cannot find a single facility built on forest land. Every single organics processing centre we've reviewed to date has been placed on industrial land.

Stranger still, the City of Toronto, with a population density of 4,149.5 per square kilometre, compared to Simcoe County's 91.8 per square kilometre (Springwater Township is 34 per square kilometre), has been able to keep this development approximately 735 metres from closest home; meanwhile Simcoe County's plan to convert forest tract to industrial waste management lands will place this facility within 500 metres of almost a dozen properties.

Kingston's facility is over 680 metres from the nearest residence. Guelph located their facility 820 metres away from any homes.

We can't find an example of homes closer to a facility than what Simcoe County is proposing, and that is concerning.

If it is a fact that every other municipality in the province of Ontario has managed to avoid tearing down forests in order to build these facilities, why would Simcoe County want to be the first? Why would this council want to set that precedent, to be the first area unable to find industrial land for its waste? Is it really in the public interest to locate this facility far closer to receptors than has occurred in municipalities with far greater population density challenges to resolve when siting these facilities?

How can the County square its desire to destroy an environmentally important tract of forest in order to build a waste management facility, closer to homes than is normal in other Ontario municipalities, instead of placing this facility on industrial land where it belongs?

Are you aware the specific site selected within the Freele Tract of land will require you to approve constructing a waste management facility on top of an archaeological find that appears to be a former homestead from the 1840s?

These are all issues that are unique to the County's desire to construct this waste management facility in a forest, closer to homes than is normal, and something we believe the County should reverse. This is particularly important considering the new information regarding the site's archaeological features and environmentally sensitive elements that make re-siting the facility within the Freele Tract next to impossible if you are to avoid all archaeological features and all environmentally sensitive areas, while respecting the bare bones 300 metre setback that is recommended for projects of this nature (and about half of what other municipalities do).

We would like to hear from you on this matter, and we know your voice is important. We will be attempting to contact you by phone directly next week to hear your thoughts.

While County Council has approved this site and has approved a general timeline, you are not ultimately bound to proceed with this facility at this site, if Council deems it not prudent to do so.

Council has the opportunity to proceed with this project, likely without any opposition, by simply revising the siting of the facility to a more appropriate location. We hope to be able to engage with you on this and other issues we plan to raise over the coming weeks to encourage a dialogue that would see this issue resolved without protracted conflict between residents and the County.

There are industrial lands available that do not require ignoring your 20 year forestry management plan, building this close to homes, or building over archaeological sites that are surrounded by environmentally sensitive natural features. It is truly up to you and your colleagues whether you're prepared to justify all of that for this project.

We hope to be able to work productively with you and other members of Council to resolve this in a manner that is a win-win for all involved.

Gordon Grainger

Vice President

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