

Report

Date April 5, 2022
Subject 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee Workplan

File:

PURPOSE

To consider the initiatives proposed by the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for action in 2022.

BACKGROUND

2022 Environmental Advisory Committee Workplan, February 22 agenda item 4.2

The following motion was carried at the February 22, 2022 EAC meeting:

*THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend:
THAT Council approve the 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee Workplan, as amended at the
February 22, 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee.*

This report represents the collection of workplan information and subjects for meetings as reviewed by the committee from the previous two meetings.

The Environmental Advisory Committee developed and collated a workplan in 2021 to provide direction and purpose for its meetings that year. The work plan was divided into three sections noted below:

- A. Subjects that have been referred by Council to the EAC for advice;
- B. Subjects that have been identified in Council's Strategic Plan (possible to be brought forward by Council, committee members or staff);
- C. Subjects that have been identified by others (generally considered not to be relevant to Council's Strategic Plan) of interest to the EAC.

Staff have generally followed the same format as in 2021 in developing an EAC workplan for 2022.

DISCUSSION

The proposed 2022 workplan is included (Attachment 1) with this report for reference.

Section A of the workplan includes two subjects that are carry-forwards from 2021 and three matters that were referred by Council during the January 19, 2021 Council meeting. In total, there are eight topics that are existing referrals or reasonably expected to become referrals due to the continuing nature of the projects, such as the Biodiversity Protection Policy.

Section B contains carry-forward items from 2021 that were identified as medium priority. It also lists four high priority (from the EAC perspective). Review of the Master Transportation Plan (B8), and review of the Integration of Natural Assets into the asset management program (B9) are recent issues given high priority status by the EAC.

Section C lists five current matters or ideas that have been raised by members or submitted by others. Included in the list is EAC input on the Forestry Review which was raised by the EAC again this year during the workshops.

Staff seek direction on whether Council will refer all or some of the initiatives noted in Sections B and C of the proposed EAC workplan, and the anticipated time to respond to the referrals. Council should be aware that past experience suggests that large issues such as biodiversity and master transportation planning may involve more than one meeting for the EAC to provide thoughtful comment. Also, this is a living document that may adjust to include emerging issues, and will depend on project timelines before presentation to the committee.

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule, February 22 agenda item 4.3

The following motion was carried at the February 22, 2022 EAC meeting:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee supports the meeting dates and proposed meeting items as amended at the February 22, 2022 meeting.

The EAC reviewed the meeting dates that were established in late 2021 and agreed to generally keep the routine schedule to six meetings per year while acknowledging that there could be others added at the call of the Chair. The minutes of the February 22 meeting (included in the Consent Agenda) reflect this sentiment with the acknowledgement that there is likely to be a meeting set for early October that will address potential community grant applications. This allows for Council's consideration during the budget process for the following year in the event that there is a case for greater contribution than remaining funds would allow.

The previously scheduled meeting for November becomes a placeholder since the term of the committee ends October 31, 2022. Staff will work through the logistics of committee appointments later in the year depending on the will of Council.

Staff feel that the meeting schedule is for information only since the number of meetings are stipulated in the terms of reference with a proviso that meetings are also possible at the call of the Chair, and that the meeting dates were established at the November 16, 2021 meeting of the EAC.

OPTIONS

1. (Recommended Option) THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse the 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Workplan, as presented in Attachment 1 of the April 5, 2022 report from the Director of Engineering Projects; and,
- (2) Direct staff to work with the Committee Chair to prioritize the items listed in section A of the 2022 EAC Workplan.

- This option ensures that current issues of Council that have been referred to the EAC retain a priority and comments or recommendations are received in a manner that will inform decision making. It may mean that other topics of high interest will wait until there is time available.

2. Option 2 THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse the 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Workplan included as Attachment 1 of the April 5, 2022 report from the Director of Engineering Projects, subject to the following

- amendments *(Council to identify which items are to be removed or added to the Workplan)*; and,
- (2) Direct staff to work with the Committee Chair to prioritize items *(Council to identify which items are to be prioritized)* listed in section *(Council which section, A, B or C)* of the 2022 EAC Workplan.
- This option enables Council to identify which items that they want staff to prioritize in 2022.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

Referrals to the EAC do not have a financial impact other than increasing staff time involved in arranging, attending and follow up reporting after meetings. 2021 was a busy year with 13 EAC meetings.

Personnel

Staff workload was greater in 2021 than anticipated due to the number of meetings and complexity of subject matter such as the CAEP and OCP. 2022 appears to create similar demands just with the "A" list of referred subjects. However, staff feel that the addition of resources upon hiring of a Climate Change Specialist and the ability to call meetings when needed allow the workload to be managed and have priority issues considered.

Environmental

A core service of the EAC is to advise Council on environmental issues on which Council is seeking input. All of the issues included are environmentally relevant and have the potential to inform Council and if acted upon, positively impact the environment. Staff believe that the EAC contributions were welcomed by Council in 2021 and anticipate the same in 2022.

Communications

Recommendations that may arise from the EAC Workplan will have a need for communications if endorsed by Council. This has become the norm for many initiatives undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse the Environmental Advisory Committee's proposed Workplan, as presented in Attachment 1 of the April 5, 2022 report from the Director of Engineering Projects; and,
- (2) Direct staff to work with the Committee Chair to prioritize the items listed in section A of the 2022 EAC Workplan.

Report prepared by:

David Conway

David Conway PEng
Director, Engineering Projects

Report reviewed by:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

(1) Attachment 1 2022 EAC Workplan