

Memo

To: **Concerned Residents Group**

From: **Oliver Jacob, Councillor with the Township of McNab/Braeside**

Date: **June 16th, 2022**

Subject: **Timeline on Sustane Technologies Proposal**

The purpose of this Memo is to provide an overview of the timeline of events that has led to the current status of Mayor Peckett's Sustane Technologies proposal.

Background

Sustane Technologies is a clean-tech company operating with one (1) active operating plant located in Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada. This location is built on a parcel of municipally owned lands which includes an existing community landfill and recycling depot owned and operated by the District of the Municipality of Chester. The plant was officially announced in 2016 and received its preliminary Environmental Assessment Approval in August 2018. It began formal operation in mid-to-late 2019 with reduced capacity. It has received funding from government agencies, including the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and employs a couple dozen people. The pyrolysis process has been developed based on Spanish technology which has been adapted for the North America by Sustane and tested at the Renewlogy plant in Utah, USA.

Timeline

In May 2018, the Halifax Regional Municipality hosted the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference. Several local politicians attended this conference and it is my understanding that some participated in a scheduled excursion to the Chester, NS site (including a site tour and explanation of the technology). This included then-Reeve Walter Stack (Arnprior), then-Mayor Don Eady (Horton) and current Reeve Glenn Doncaster (Deep River). Mayor Stack noted that he had reached out to Mayor Peckett, as Chair of the County's Operations Committee, after the FCM conference to let him know about the potential opportunity with Sustane. From 2018 to 2020, Mayor Peckett has worked with Sustane Technologies without Township Council knowledge or approval.

At the August 18th, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council, Mayor Peckett informed Council of his work with Sustane Technologies in vague terms and provided two promotional videos that briefly demonstrated Sustane's technology processes. He also shared that he and the CAO/Clerk had also visited the site. While some Members of Township Council were hesitant about the approach to recycling, Council accepted the Mayor's verbal report as information and made no staff directions nor passed any substantive resolutions. It was understood at this time that Council would receive more substantive information about the potential project and then have the opportunity for staff to review our legal obligations under federal/provincial legislation and the scientific efficacy of the technology itself **before** the project could proceed.

On March 23rd, 2022, all Members of Council received an email from Landaira Inc, an Ottawa-based company that provides alternative waste management solutions similar to Sustane Technologies (see Appendix B). At my request, the CAO/Clerk included this correspondence on the April 5th, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council agenda so that it

would form a part of the public record. During discussion on this email, Mayor Peckett stated that he had signed a “three-year non-competition agreement” with Sustane Technologies. This was a surprise to me as Council had not authorized such action nor was it aware of it. After the meeting, I reached out to the CAO/Clerk who advised that it was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that she had verified to ensure that it was not legally binding. She noted that the MOU would assure Sustane that the Township “wouldn’t disclose any of the information about the company (as we’ve been inside to see how it all works) and that we would “hold the location” for three years while the desired amount of garbage is sought after”. Nothing was shared with regard to the project status as it was just an information item.

In May 2022, several Members of Council noticed media reports regarding Mayor Peckett visiting other municipalities (specifically Petawawa) on the Township’s behalf to advocate for obtaining sufficient capacity for the project to proceed. In response, Mayor Peckett requested authority to proceed with such delegations at the May 24th, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council. The resolution presented was passed by Council at this meeting (see Appendix A).

Discussion

I reached out to some municipal colleagues that I worked with in Nova Scotia regarding Sustane Technologies and they reported that they were not aware of any significant negative results from their Chester, NS plant. They said that the company generally has a good reputation in Nova Scotia but that they have not expanded their reach due to municipalities having their own successful waste management programs and the challenges of regional access (cost, transportation, added costs, etc.).

Next Steps

To date, Township Council has not formally considered nor endorsed the Sustane Technologies project on behalf of the Township of McNab/Braeside. Apart from the unauthorized non-binding MOU discussed above, the Township has not made any financial or legal commitments to this project. Therefore, the project is still in its early stages despite the Mayor’s comments that it could be built in the next 2-3 years.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime either by telephone at (613) 227-5756 or by email at ojacob@mcnabbraeside.com.

Sincerely,



Oliver Jacob
Township of McNab/Braeside

Attachments: Appendix A (Relevant Excerpts from Council Minutes), Appendix B (Landaira email)

Appendix A (Relevant Excerpts from Council Minutes)

August 18th, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 Sustane Technologies Video 1 Video 2

Mayor Peckett explained how the Sustane Technologies system works and what products are produced from the process. The system requires 200 tonnes of garbage per day (all 365 days of the year) to operate. The facility does not use chemicals, has no smell, there is very little noise outside of the plant and they use steamed pressure. Any member of Council with questions can forward them to the CAO/Clerk.

RESOLUTION - 231-2020

Moved by Deputy Mayor Brian Armsden

Seconded by Councillor Heather Lang

THAT Council accept this as information as submitted and circulated.

CARRIED.

April 5th, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council (attached)

9. Information Items

9.2 Landaira - Landfill Alternate Solution

RESOLUTION - 128-2022

Moved by Councillor Heather Lang

Seconded by Councillor Oliver Jacob

THAT Council accept this correspondence as information as submitted and circulated.

CARRIED.

May 24th, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council

11. Unfinished Business ...

11.2 Sustane Technologies Update

RESOLUTION - 200-2022

Moved by Deputy Mayor Brian Armsden

Seconded by Councillor Scott Brum

THAT Council authorizes Mayor Peckett to continue his work in obtaining agreements in principle from other municipalities for the significant amount of garbage required for this project.

CARRIED.

Mandy Cannon

To: Lindsey Lee
Subject: RE: McNab/Braeside Landfill Alternate Solution

Hello Mayor Peckett and Members of Council;

In reading the recent article posted in the CTV News about your need for an alternate solution to the traditional MSW landfill in the Ottawa Valley, we understand you're looking at the Sustane Technology as a possible solution.

Our company Landaira, locally headquartered in Ottawa, would like to request a short introductory meeting in hopes to present a different alternative solution that transforms up to 95% of the Municipal Solid Waste into carbon and ash residue, while creating clean synthetic gas. Our *Thermal Conversion* technology at Landaira will reduce greenhouse gases by up to 99% while eliminating the need for a landfill expansion and reducing the landscape of your existing site. Our Operations facilities are completely scalable to your needs, and depending on your tipping fees and our ability to sell renewable energy to the grid to your local utility company, a plant could be zero capital costs to your Municipality for the construction and operation of the Landaira facility. We can manage a range between 400 to 600 tons per day of MSW, but could also explore solutions to manage much more if required.

We are currently working with other Municipalities globally to customize solutions to meet their landfill needs. We have a fully operational R&D facility in Tennessee since 2009 and have conducted many different environmental studies while facilitating the local needs. We have also received an exemption from the EPA stating we are not classified as an incinerator given our environmental success rate of meeting next to zero emissions.

We would like to invite you to visit our Landaira website for more information, and to view our Thermal Conversion process.

We would like to request some time to introduce Landaira and to present our solution in helping support your MSW needs. We would only require 15-minutes of your time to present our solution, plus allow time to answer any of your questions you might have.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks Spencer

Spencer Warren, MBA, PMP
Vice President, Operations



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