

Report to Council

To: Waterworks Committee
From: Administration
File #: DOP-CC-15
Date: December 14, 2020
Re: WPCF Upgrading Status

For Information

Tasks undertaken since mid-October regarding the Portage la Prairie Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Upgrading project include:

- 1) Maintained communications with Manitoba Sustainable Infrastructure Secretariat regarding the funding agreements, which have not yet been received.
- 2) Reviewed the concept plan for a maintenance shop and staff facility at the Operations Department Public Works yard which will be needed by the City when the WPCF contract operator takes over the WPCF site and those facilities are no longer available to the City. Federal and Provincial funding under the ICIP program will not be increased for this work.
- 3) During the Request for Qualification period, a few requests for information from the prospective proponents were received and answered.
- 4) The deadline for receipt of submissions in response to the Request for Qualifications was November 17. Four submissions were received. These were evaluated by several staff from the City, AECOM and Deloitte. Three proponents will be invited to prepare submissions in response to a Request for Proposal.
- 5) The City's team continued to compile background information for the prospective proponents to the Project RFP. Additional influent wastewater and biogas sampling and testing has been conducted. This additional information will help reduce the risk, and ultimately reduce the cost for the City for unquantified risk.
- 6) The Project Agreement and Request for Proposal documents continue to be developed. The team held further discussion on technical aspects of the scope of the treatment components of the final contract. Defining the influent wastewater mass loading and quality is a key concern. Not all industrial treatment capacity requirements have been confirmed. These influent figures will set their wastewater loading limits. This will form part of the scope for the Request for Proposals and Project Agreement. (Note: The Functional Design Report, the upgrading cost estimate, and the application for funding did not consider any allowance for industrial expansion. Due to requests from Industry to accommodate potential processing expansion, preliminary cost estimates were generated for an expanded treatment facility. These

additional capital costs would be 100% attributable to the respective Industry, assuming no additional grant funding was available. These capital costs could be financed by ProjectCo and incorporated into the City's annual service payment.)

- 7) The team held further discussion on risk retention by the City and allocation to the Contractor. The risk allocation is to be specified in the Project Agreement.
- 8) The City's Human Resources lawyer reviewed the RFP and Project Agreement clauses for the staff transition to ProjectCo (the Contract Operator). Details have yet to be finalized.
- 9) The Environment Act Licence was received from Manitoba Conservation and Climate Environmental Approvals. Generally, the licence limits are as anticipated, except for the ammonia nitrogen daily mass limit, which is significantly lower than in the previous licence. This is due to Simplot being granted a significant portion of the Assiniboine River's assimilative capacity and due to the reduction of the defined total assimilative capacity of the river. This might not have an impact on the design of the treatment facility due to the need to meet effluent toxicity standards regardless.
- 10) City staff and the Communications Advisor developed a communications plan and preliminary informational documents for stakeholders. This was forwarded to Manitoba Sustainable Infrastructure Secretariat for review and comment. All communications regarding funding issues and significant milestone events are to be vetted through the Province, who will also provide translation services to the French language. Revisions to the plan have since been made.

Tasks over the next month will include notifying respondents to the RFQ of the evaluation results; reviewing and proposing amendments to the ICIP and Provincial funding agreements, if received; preparing the scope of work for the Request for Proposals and the Project Agreement; and compiling additional historical documents and wastewater characterization documents. City staff, with assistance from legal counsel, will collate human resources documents and develop the approach and terms of reference for the transfer of staff to the new contractor.