

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
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TO: Members of Council
FROM: Krista Power, City Clerk
DATE: Thursday, June 2, 2022
SUBJECT: **Additional Information/New Business**
Committee of the Whole – June 6, 2022

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Additional Information

1. **Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee**

Memorandum from Chief Chemist – Environment Division Ian Morgan dated May 31, 2022 relative to the above noted, for information.

New Business

1. **Establishment of a Closed Session Meeting**

The following resolution will be presented to Committee of the Whole for consideration:

THAT a Committee of the Whole – Closed Session meeting be scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in order to receive information pursuant to the Municipal Act (Section 239 (2)) relative to:

- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; and
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.



Environment Division

Tel: (807) 625-2471

Fax: (807) 625-3588

MEMORANDUM

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk
FROM: Ian Morgan, Chief Chemist – Environment Division
DATE: May 31, 2022
RE: Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee Background and Update on Local Thunder Bay Beach Closings Status

The purpose of this memorandum is to update City Council on the Local Thunder Bay Beach Closings Beneficial Use Impairment status and provide background information on the Remedial Action Plan to supplement the presentation to the Committee of the Whole on Monday, June 6, 2022 from a representative from the Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee.

Background:

Thunder Bay is one of the 43 Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) identified by Canada and the United States pursuant to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA, 2012). AOCs are locations in which the environment has been impaired by human activities at the local level, and may include significant chemical, physical, and biological degradation, including impacts from water pollution, contaminated sediment, and impacts to habitat. Thunder Bay was designated an AOC due to the impacts of urbanization along the waterfront, industrial and municipal wastewater discharge, contaminated sediment, and hydroelectric development along its urban tributaries.

Remedial Action Plans (RAP) deal with environmental impairments in AOCs of the Great Lakes. The RAP seeks to monitor, assess and remediate AOCs while working with local community groups, scientists and community representatives to evaluate the state of the environment and progress made in AOCs.

In 1991, the Stage 1 RAP report (Thunder Bay Remedial Action Plan, 1991) identified the status of fourteen beneficial use impairments (BUIs) as "impaired", "not impaired", or "requires further assessment" in the Thunder Bay Area of Concern. BUIs are evaluated according to delisting criteria which are environmental targets that allow scientists and the community to evaluate remedial success as it relates to individual BUIs.

The Beach Closings BUI were deemed “impaired”; dating back to the 1980s, elevated levels of bacterial contamination caused frequent beach closures at Chippewa Park and Boulevard Lake beaches during the summer months, thereby affecting recreational use of the waterways. Concentrations of fecal coliforms were often in excess of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Park’s Provincial Water Quality Objectives (which were consistent with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s Recreational Water Quality Guideline at the time).

Update on Local Thunder Bay Beach Closings Status and Project Highlights:

After years of community engagement, monitoring and remedial efforts the Beach Closings BUI is currently proposed for re-designation to “not impaired” as the Thunder Bay beaches are now in good condition and have met the delisting criteria.

Additionally, the City of Thunder Bay has been actively working on these beaches to improve both the environmental quality as well as the overall experience for residents and visitors at these sites. Some of the most noteworthy projects include but are not limited to:

- Development of a beach cleaning program (i.e. the hazing and egg depredation program) to manage waterfowl impacts at the beaches;
- A new playground to be constructed at Boulevard Lake in 2022;
- Three (3) LID facilities have been constructed on the north side of Boulevard Lake, providing stormwater treatment to approximately six (6) hectares of land, prior to draining into Boulevard Lake;
- The redesign and construction of the Main Beach Parking Area at Boulevard Lake including LID stormwater management techniques to improve water quality draining from the parking lot into the beach area;
- During the summer of 2020 while lake levels were dropped for the reconstruction of the Dam, Parks & Open Spaces Staff removed exposed litter from the exposed lake bottom where possible and also removed logs and woody debris in the beach areas;
- LRCA has submitted a funding application to implement a wider riparian zone in that area to further improve water quality and to further deter geese.

If you have any questions please contact me at 625-3537.

Sincerely,

Ian Morgan, Ph.D., P. Chem., C. Chem.
Chief Chemist – Environment Division

cc: K. Marshall, General Manager – I&O
M. Warywoda, Director – Environment
City Clerk, Krista Power