

Report to Council

Report Title:	Municipal Innovation Council Continuation		
Prepared By:	Sonya Watson, Chief Administration Officer		
Department:	Administration		
Date:	August 9, 2022		
Report Number:	CAO2022-29	File Number:	C11AD
Attachments:	MIC Impact Report 2022 MIC Agreement 2022-2025		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2022-29 - Municipal Innovation Council Continuation, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administration Officer and in doing so considers the additional information presented to enter an extension agreement for participation in the Municipal Innovation Council.

Report:

Background:

Becky Smith, Director, Centre for Municipal Innovation Institute attended the July 12th, 2022 Council meeting to provide Council an update on the project status for various initiatives underway by the Municipal Innovation Council (MIC). Council had some specific items of clarity and this report outlines further details on specific value for Brockton with the initiatives and projects taking place. The MIC is focusing on large – hard to tackle projects. Projects that if left to each municipality would take years to accomplish with limited resources and staffing. The MIC provides a professional and qualified staff person to lead large projects to completion that will benefit the partners in a variety of ways- now and in the future. In order to secure a professional and qualified staff member a three-year commitment of the member partners is necessary. When tackling projects or contracting consultants to work on projects that may span multiple years a commitment of the partners is required. A three-year commitment allows this work to progress and allows for a suitable and consistent budget to work with. Being part of the MIC has resulted in cost savings to Brockton as outlined below but has created efficiencies and access to various items and improved methods of service delivery and purchasing. Being a continued partner in this initiative for the next three years is a strategic move by Council that will allow us to continue to partner on projects that are being widely recognized and will add long-term benefit to the community of Brockton.

To date the following six (6) partners have agreed to the extension and three-year commitment; South Bruce, Kincardine, Northern Bruce Peninsula, County of Bruce, Huron-Kinloss and Saugeen Shores and will continue to participate to leverage funds and tackle big issues collaboratively.

Analysis:

The Municipal Innovation Council was established in 2020, and have implemented the following projects with many successes as outlined below:

Mapping project

- A digital mapping solution using artificial intelligence and state-of-the-art machine learning that delivered 21st century GIS data to support a wide range of municipal and conservation authority activities.
- Provides a comprehensive data set for planning and building that will allow seniors staff and decision makers to tackle problems that we just simply didn't have the ground information to do before.
- The data will include all building footprints, roads, bridges, impervious surfaces, forests and waterways as well as a digital terrain model (DTM), digital surface model (DSM) and a 3D rendering of all natural and human-made features across Bruce County.

Data uses for municipalities

- Building: provides a complete building footprint of each municipality and the entire county to inform planning, engineering and roads department
- Engineering and Planning uses: allows municipalities to plan smarter E.g., mapping pervious vs impervious surfaces so we can analysis water run off to better understand stormwater management
- Environment stewardship uses: Land use data could be analyzed and used to develop strategies that improve watershed health, rural forest planting and broader environmental programs.

Value for Money

- Tremendous example of how the MIC utilized innovative technology to deliver significant value of money, this project would simply not have happened if municipalities had to do this on their own
- This project saved close to 14,000 hours of in-house Geographical Information Systems (GIS) work.
- This project was completed for \$11,000 per municipality (through MIC contributions) and saved each member close to \$70,000 (\$500,000 in collective savings)

This project in itself will help with development projects across the County and locally and has resulted in extensive costs savings for members with access to data not previously available.

Information Technology Service Review

Through this joint review we were able to identify and move forward with a Preferred Vendor of Record for hardware purchases. In a time of rapidly evolving technological advances, municipalities are seeking to update software to meet the needs of the staff and the growing population. MIC has identified opportunities over the next five years for municipalities to collaborate, save money and share best practices. Joint IT Steering committee provides a platform to share knowledge with IT leaders across the county in way that hasn't been done before. This has proven to be valuable for information sharing as many municipalities do not have a dedicated full-time IT employee. In addition to the opportunity for hardware purchases, staff have explored additional cost saving opportunities with the mobile telecommunication. As indicated in the report

“Mobile Telecommunication Agreement” prepared by Trish Serratore, the Municipality could see as much as \$990 per month, equal to \$11,880 annually in savings.

MIC Training Opportunities

We were able to share costs which allows us to provide high quality training opportunities for municipal staff across the member municipalities for a fraction of the cost. To date training on Equity Diversity and Inclusion Training and Mental Health Training has resulted in staff having access to over \$18,000 in training with no additional cost to Brockton. Next on the agenda for joint training is Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training across the member municipalities.

Smart Beach Project

- **The first of its kind in North America:** innovative technology combined with public education and awareness will provide a unique service to residents, visitors and newcomers to our beaches that will help save lives.
- The Smart Beach project is a prime example of the Municipal Innovation Council at work on an innovative solution that can be adapted to and applied across our member municipalities and the Great Lakes.
- This project will also help keep our first responders safer if they’re called out to the scene—by ensuring they have access to real-time information on water conditions.
- Brockton was among the top 10 communities with residents visiting Kincardine, from recent data taken from a Geofencing project completed in the Municipality of Kincardine. This data has the potential to help save the lives of Brockton residents.
- Saving EMS cost and give our first responders smarter information: Direct local cost per rescue ranges from \$5,000-\$20,000 (local EMS, County EMS and First Nation EMS). If we can reduce the number of drownings and drowning related incidents, we not only save lives but also reduce the number of calls, saving money throughout the County.
- Real Time Water Quality Information: we are beginning to explore utilizing sensors and advanced technologies to monitor real time water quality information to benefit our beaches and the entire watershed.

MIC Portal

There is now a portal developed with a full array of documents that we have access to amongst member municipalities. This portal has created efficiency through access to templates and saves staff time (for example: Human Resources documents, job descriptions, best practices, policies etc.).

Waste Management Service Review

Waste Management remains an ongoing topic and was discussed further at the July 21, 2022 MIC meeting. Implementation of the Waste Management Review was identified as a priority of the members. A motion was passed to outline our commitment to the Waste Management Review and to build on that through participation in the County Waste Management Master Plan and identifying key priority areas that would benefit the majority of members to create cost savings or more effective ways to deal with waste.

Motion:

Moved by Sonya Watson

Seconded by Leanne Martin

That the Municipal Innovation Council prioritize the waste management review as a significant item in the next three (3) year period as we strive to collaboratively find waste handling and waste diversion efficiencies and costs savings as a result of recommendations and data included in the MIC's Dillon Report.

Carried.

The Transportation and Environmental Services Department of the County of Bruce is undertaking a County Waste Management Master Plan. This plan will specifically review diversion programs and opportunities for County wide programs to support efficiencies but not the operation of the individual landfill sites. The MIC Director is participating in this project on behalf of MIC members and member partners and the Directors of the lower-tiers will be involved. RFP's are currently being evaluating to hire a consultant

The Master Plan is to review the information from the MIC Report and to make recommendations for the future services that could be better carried out by the County through collaboration with the County and local municipalities.

Goals and Objectives

The main objectives of this Waste Management Study are as follows:

1. Build upon the recommendations of the MIC report specific to the role of the County in providing diversion services that will extend the life of the individual landfills, and provide for efficiencies.
2. Increase the level of service in the diversion from landfills to meet the desire of residents.
3. Be prepared to support to the local municipalities for the 2025 transition to Full Producer Responsibility.
4. Make recommendations on the structure and/or governance of BASWR and the potential for the County to be involved.
5. Recommendations for staffing and resources required to adequately carry out those functions.
6. Provide a financial impact estimate for the recommendations with cost savings or service improvements.
7. Provide a recommended timeline for implementation

Participation in this study through the work of the MIC is a critical step towards implementation of items identified through the work of the MIC and the Waste Management Report.

Next Steps

As Council is aware, the pilot MIC Agreement was to be for a period ending December 31, 2022, the end of the three years. In the last year, the MIC has been able to illustrate how that solid foundation is starting to bear fruit in the caliber and quality of the projects that are being advanced in 2022. Brockton's commitment of monies to long-term projects that span over multiple years is necessary to participate. We need to commit to the Director for a contract period to ensure a professional employee is in place to enact our projects and bring them to fruition. Some of these are high level strategic projects that staff would otherwise not have time to tackle or implement. The Director is leading that work for us and collaborating with key staff across the Municipality as required.

The Municipal Innovation Council has had remarkable success over the 3-year period, pilot projects have demonstrated the advantage of economies of scale to the member municipalities with projects savings of over half a million dollars.

In addition to project savings, the member municipalities are starting to see the value in what is being leveraged by the MIC as outlined through a number of projects outlined above. I recommend Council commit to the next three-year period where we expect to make even further progress ahead and continue to look for areas of cost savings, efficiencies and improved ways of offering services to our residents.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The Municipality of Brockton has contributed \$22,630 annually for a total investment of \$67,890 over the three years. Therefore, based on the grant monies leveraged and member municipalities partaking we have leveraged approximately \$17.00 for every dollar spent (in addition to the future savings that will be realized from this work). Additional specifics on certain savings have been outline above.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer