Report to Goderich Town Council – Proposed addition to the Goderich harbour to facilitate P&H loading upgrades.

Purpose

In late 2018 P&H made GPMC and town staff aware of a proposed investment at the Elevator that would offer significant environmental benefits and improve loading capabilities at the facility. In order to safely and efficiently load with the new loading spout, which was to be located on Dock #2, P&H were looking to have a mooring dolphin structure in the harbour off that dock.

Background

Town staff met with P&H representatives in 2018 to discuss and receive updates on the feasibility of placing a new loading mechanism, as well as a structure to be located in the harbour basin to facilitate the securing of vessels. Town staff provided updates to Council at their May 7, 2018 meeting (Item 8.14), October 15, 2018 (Item 10.14) and November 12, 2018 (Item #9.14). Brad Wallaker, P&H representative made a presentation to Council at their May 7, 2018 meeting. The following motion was subsequently passed by Council at that meeting:

4.1 Brad Wallaker – Geotechnical Investigation associated to proposed foundation and structural requirements for design of P & H new vessel loading tower

Brad Wallaker provides a presentation on the Geotechnical Investigation for a new vessel loading tower.

Moved by: Councillor Hansen
Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

That correspondence 8.14 be brought forward, being a report, as a result of a meeting held between P & H and Town representatives containing terms, conditions and a recommendation.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Hansen
Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

That Council concur with the recommendations found in the memo from Larry J. McCabe, Chief Administrative Officer, dated April 25, 2018 regarding meeting of Town Representatives and Parrish & Heimbecker.

CARRIED

Prepared by Rowland Howe – February 2020
P&H provided Town staff with subsurface geotechnical investigations on dock #2 to verify engineering design assumptions, and following that, the appropriate building permissions were granted for the shoreside equipment which has been procured and installation work is currently underway.

At the same time Town staff asked that GPMC begin working with P&H to ensure their loading upgrades are both successful and consistent with all other harbour activities.

This was also a particular concern of the other users.

We have concluded that a mooring dolphin placed beside dock #3, in the inner harbour, to align vessels while loading and unloading at dock #2 can be achieved without adversely impacting other port users.

The designs were modeled and run through the marine simulator in Georgian college with an experienced Algoma Captain piloting the largest class of vessel entering the port and in a range of conditions. The conclusion was that with some minor modification to the placement of the dolphin it would not impede vessel movements. Additionally, the structure will allow controlled vessel turns in poor conditions by securing bow lines to it, a benefit that was not identified until the simulation runs were attempted.

The coast guard were consulted regarding response time to the lake in the event of a distress call and their needs can be accommodated in the proposed configuration.

The final engineering and design for the dolphin have been concluded and the DFO (Department of Fisheries & Oceans) has been asked to review the plans with regard to permitting the necessary in water construction work. This is a small footprint in an area previously dredged so we anticipate that some of the fish habitat offsets already developed and credited to the port can be used for this project if needed.

**Recommendations**

Given the importance of this project to the continued success of the Elevator, the environmental controls it brings and the results of our due diligence, GPMC is satisfied and recommends the design and the location that has been developed. The final structure would be part of the port and an asset of the Town to be maintained by GPMC.

The budget for this work is expected to be in the order of $1.5MM but final quotes are not yet available. Proposed timing would be spring through summer of 2020.

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While the full funding model is still to be finalized, we are aware of the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) Continuous call for trade diversification projects, available from the Federal government which could contribute up to 50% of the cost.

We have jointly explored with Transport Canada staff whether this project would fit the criteria for the fund and the conversations have been positive. An expression of interest has been submitted on-line to the program in the hopes of getting some definite direction.

P&H's new loading equipment will allow the Goderich elevator to access and serve new agricultural and end markets, taking advantage of marine transportation, which is a key element of this program. This will also translate to increased commodity volumes through the port.

**Motion of support**

I wanted to make council aware of this opportunity and seek any guidance they may offer.

I would ask for a motion from council to support, in principal, this activity.

I will continue to update staff and council if this opportunity progresses.

*Rowland Howe, President of Goderich Port Management Corporation*

Prepared by Rowland Howe – February 2020