

# **THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS**

## **STAFF REPORT**

**DATE:** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**TO:** Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** David Shen, P.Eng, Director of Development Services and Engineering

**SUBJECT:** Request Municipal Council Support Resolution for COMPASS Renewable Energy Consulting Inc.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT, Committee of the Whole accept this staff report as information and direct staff to bring forward a summary of the public meeting to be held by Compass Renewable Energy Consulting Inc so that Council can make its decision based on the staff information and the public comments made at the consultation meeting.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Representatives from COMPASS Renewable Energy Consulting Inc. ("COMPASS") delivered a presentation at the October 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, requesting a Municipal Council Support Resolution to support their bidding of a battery energy storage system project. The presentation is contained in Attachment A.

Council directed staff to conduct an analysis for further consideration. This report is to present analysis result and recommendation.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is the crown corporation responsible for operating the electricity market and directing the operation of the bulk electrical system in Ontario.

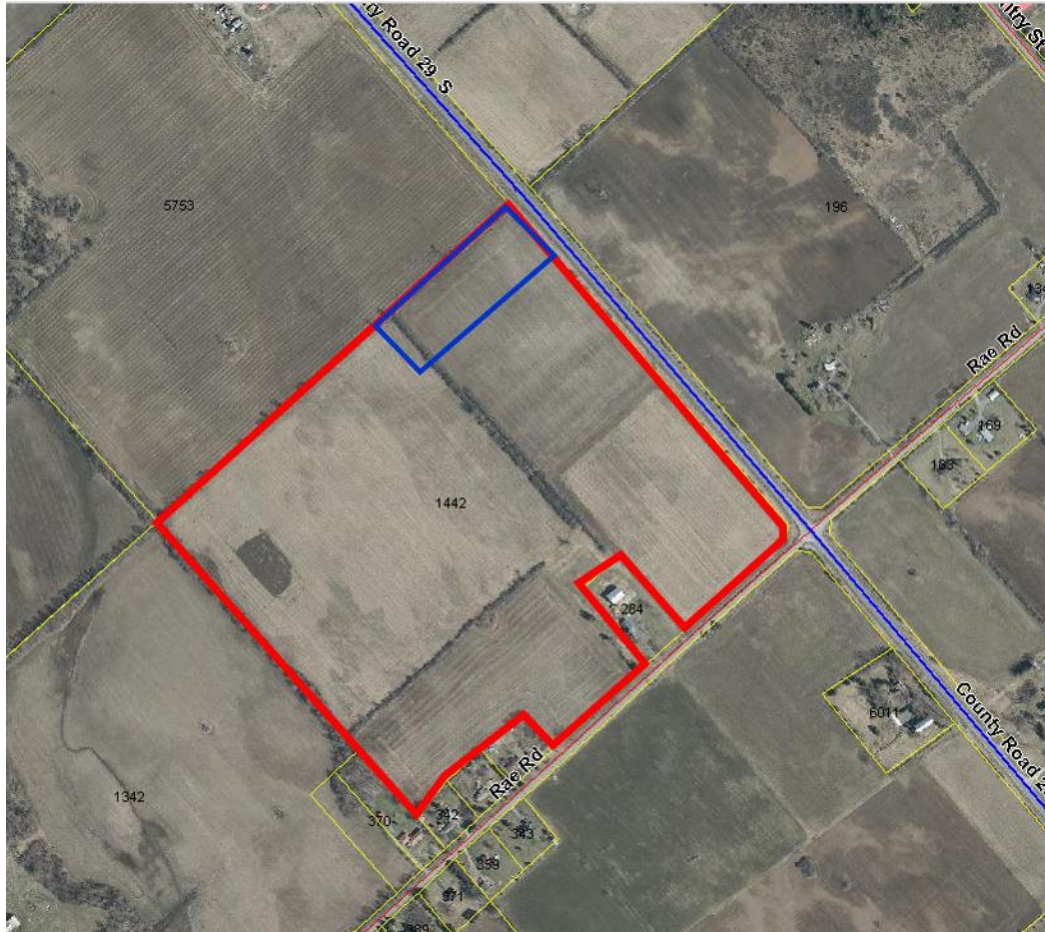
To meet growing electricity needs and support sustainable development, IESO has initiated several programs, including battery storage since 2014. Battery storage provides flexibility to electricity systems by storing low-cost power during off-peak periods and feeding it back into the electricity grid during peak periods when the demand for electricity is the highest.

COMPASS has been qualified to bid such projects through an IESO procurement process and has identified a project site in this Municipality, 1442 Ramsay Concession 8, shown in Figure 1 below. As required by IESO Request for Proposal, a Municipal Council Resolution in support will be considered a benefit in their proposal submission, with three points assigned in the rated evaluation criteria (out of 16 total points).

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

COMPASS has secured a 25 year lease on behalf of Almonte BESS Limited Partnership, for the battery storage project site (Figure 1).

Figure 1



The site (PIN: **05103-0171**) is within Ramsay Ward, at the northwest intersection of County Road 29 and Rae Road. The property is zoned Agriculture (A) in the Zoning By-law and designated Agriculture in the Official Plan. Below is an image provided by COMPASS illustrating a typical battery storage facility.



## **ANALYSIS**

In addition to the RFP available on its website, on September 20<sup>th</sup> IESO delivered an engagement session (Attachment B) with stakeholders including municipalities. IESO also provides municipalities with instructions, guidance and a Resolution Template (Attachment C).

If a supportive project-specific resolution is passed, the Municipality is confirming a supportive position on the construction and operation of this long-term battery storage facility. The statement in this resolution will be used to enable COMPASS to receive rated criteria points and to satisfy obligations under the contract (if awarded) in this IESO procurement process. However, this does not supersede any applicable permits/approvals under applicable laws and regulations that may be required such as planning approval or building permits.

Before the proposal submission, COMPASS will need to fulfill IESO mandatory requirements of community engagement, including developing a Community Engagement Plan, creating a public website, and hosting at least one public meeting.

The proposed battery storage will be optimizing the local electricity grid (to a certain degree) in terms of intelligence and resilience, such as increasing the ability to provide more electricity during peak periods without additionally burdening the current generation system. However, it is noted that typically the support for industrial development includes some contribution to local employment, which is not the case for battery storage.

The current land designation of this parcel is Agriculture, in the Community Official Plan. The Agriculture designation identifies lands that are considered Prime Agricultural land from a Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) perspective, which generally should be preserved for agricultural use or agricultural-related uses. Staff note that there are many properties within the Municipality which are designated Rural or other land designations that may not be as valuable as Prime Agricultural lands. It is also noted that this property is recommended to remain in the Agricultural designation as contained in the recently approved Official Plan Amendment 29 (LEAR).

Concerns have been raised regarding fire safety, soil/groundwater contamination, and decommissioning issues, which have yet to be evaluated by staff.

## **EVALUATION**

Three options have been developed and evaluated:

Option 1: Decline the request considering the land designation, safety, environmental and decommissioning concerns.

Option 2: Endorse the request considering sustainable development.

Option 3: Endorse the request with conditions adding conditions in the Resolution Template to address concerns.

## **SUMMARY**

This staff report is for information to COW and Council introducing the report background and the IESO battery storage program, analyzing the land and concerns, and developing options for further decision making. Staff will attend the public meeting in early November and will provide Council with additional information via a second report for the December 6 Council meeting.



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Submitted by:  
David Shen  
Director of Development Services  
& Engineering

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Reviewed by:  
Ken T. Kelly  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: COMPASS Presentation to Council on October 4<sup>th</sup>

Attachment B: IESO Stakeholder Engagement Presentation on September 20<sup>th</sup>

Attachment C: IESO Instructions, Guidance and Resolution Template for Municipalities