

Tara Warder

Subject: FW: county council and greenhouse gas

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

I will bring Brian into this discussion as our county representative.

Brian, throughout this term I have been very ambivalent about our municipal climate change initiatives. I voted for a city climate change coordinator (I forget the exact title) three years ago but I have backed away from that and think Marion Koepke was right to move to kill the idea pending future moves by the county on this issue. So now we have the county climate change report and I am no further ahead in my own mind.

The more I read, the less I believe that our limited financial and staff resources should be expended on attempting to reduce our greenhouse gasses. I am also averse to looking like we are doing something about this issue without actually doing much at all. I am NOT trying to be difficult. I am genuinely trying to understand the county report on climate change, which I have read in detail and think I understand.

Ms Swanston has confirmed that the report concludes that i) cattle produced methane accounts for almost all of the greenhouse gasses generated by agricultural activity; and ii) therefore, almost 33% of all of Grey County's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by cattle.

But the report nowhere calls on our cattle herds to be reduced. Other than some changes to the diet of cattle, it has no apparent answers to this massive source of our GHG. An exhortation to reduce cattle would be unenforceable, of course, but at least it would be consistent with the professed claim by the county that climate change an "emergency". I am trying to square that declaration with the apparent failure in the report to address cattle.

Which makes me wonder if in fact we believe we are faced with an emergency after all.

I was hoping to engage with Ms Swanston to understand how the authors of the report tried to deal with this issue but, per this email chain, am told I need to write to county council. That seems unfortunate – surely we can engage with the authors of reports without that level of formality. If you or the authors can let me in on the reasoning behind the report and share with me some of the discussions surrounding the cattle issue, I would welcome same.

But if a letter to county council is insisted upon, I would ask Kim to please consider this email to be such a letter and to forward same to county council for a formal reply.

Many thanks.

Cordially,

John A. Tamming

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