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Windsor, Ontario December 5, 2013

A meeting of the **Windsor Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Board Room, Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, there being present the following members:

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair  
Frank Butler  
Derek Coronado  
Jesse Costa Gardner  
Roger Dzugan  
Paul Henshaw  
John Miller  
Lindita Prendi  
Tamara Stomp  
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:37 p.m.)

**Regrets received from:**

Councillor Alan Halberstadt (meeting conflict)  
Councillor Hilary Payne  
Pauline Cheslock  
Evan Freeman-Gibbs  
Mike Nelson

**Also present are the following resource personnel:**

Paul Drca, Manager, Environmental Quality  
Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:34 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT**

None disclosed.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by J. Miller, seconded by J. Costa Gardner,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held November 7, 2013 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 **Liat Podolsky, Staff Scientist, Eco Justice and Paul Drca, Manager Environmental Quality, City of Windsor**

Liat Podolsky participates in the meeting via conference call. The salient points of discussion relating to the Great Lakes Sewage Report Card 2013 are as follows:

- A 22 question survey was sent to 25 municipalities within the Great Lakes Basin in Ontario in June 2012.
- The survey included questions such as the treatment level, number and volume of CSOs and bypasses, relevant sewer use by-laws, current and future plans for sewage management, use of green infrastructure, and expectations for compliance with the federal regulations.
- Grades were assigned based on the level of treatment, bypasses and combined sewer overflow frequency and volumes, final effluent testing, sewer-use by-laws, current and future sewage management plans, use of green infrastructure and renewable energy.
- Greater weight was given to questions that directly relate to surface water quality, such as the level of sewage treatment provided and the quantity of volume of combined sewer overflows and bypasses.
- The ideal city would have tertiary treatment to remove contaminants such as phosphorous and nitrogen. It would also use non-chlorine based disinfection and would have no CSOs or bypasses, comprehensive final effluent testing, a recently updated sewer use by-law, and innovative sewage management plans that include the use of green infrastructure.
- Of all of the cities and regions included in the report, Windsor received the worst grade, followed by London and Toronto.

P. Drca does not concur with the grading system, in particular the low grade given to the City of Windsor. He notes some of the municipalities graded in the survey are regional with upper and lower tiers which means one level will operate the collection system and the other operates the water treatment system. This may result in

communication issues when talking about combined sewer overflows.. He states the City of London has 6 water treatment plants; the City of Windsor has two. He indicates the City of Windsor eliminated the use of chlorine gas as a disinfectant and replaced it with ultraviolet light. He adds the Sewer Use By-law was updated in 2011. He states major improvements have been undertaken which includes the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan, the CSO retention basin and the potential delisting of the Detroit River in 2018.

In response to a question asked by C. Wright, Co-Chair regarding if the ECO Justice group will be undertaking a follow-up report in terms of improvements made by municipalities, L. Podolsky replies there are no plans at this time.

L. Podolsky remarks most municipalities were not pleased with their grades. She notes this exercise was not meant to “burst bubbles” or impede progress. J. Costa Gardner notes this exercise opened up a bridge of communication with the 12 municipalities that were graded.

C. Wright, Co-Chair thanks Ms. Podolsky for her presentation.

## 5.2 Meghan Jeffery, Campaign Director, Idle Hands Ontario

Meghan Jeffery distributes a backgrounder relating to the current problems with the City of Windsor’s Anti-Idling By-law, attached as Appendix “A”. The PowerPoint presentation entitled “Idle Hands Ontario – A re-evaluation of the City of Windsor’s Idling By-laws” is attached as Appendix “B”. By-law 233-2001 (A By-law to prohibit excessive idling of vehicles and boats) is distributed and attached as Appendix “C”.

Ms. Jeffery succinctly provides the following comments relating to the City of Windsor’s Anti-Idling By-law:

- In By-law 233-2001, Subsection 2 (1) states “*No person shall cause or permit a vehicle or boat to idle for more than five minutes in a sixty minute period.* This does not apply to police, fire or ambulance vehicles while engaged in operational activities, vehicles assisting in emergency activity, transit vehicles while passengers are embarking or disembarking enroute or in terminals, transit vehicles while at a layover or stopover location except where idling is substantially for the convenience of the operator and vehicles where the ambient temperature is above 27C or below 5C.
- Only 2 charges have been recorded since the By-law was introduced in 2001.
- Transit Windsor vehicles idle 35-40% of the time.
- Police vehicles idle for approximately 67% of their usage time.
- One police vehicle emits 4,234kg of carbon each year
- One police vehicle wastes \$1,764 on gas due to idling
- Ambulances idle from 40-60% of their usage time. They are idling for a large amount of time when no one is critically injured. Ambulances emit 4.5 tonnes of CO2 into the air each year.

- Local transportation is the third largest contributor to air pollution in Windsor.
- Suggestion to amend the current idling by-law to state the following:
  1. No person shall permit a vehicle or boat to idle for longer than 1 minute.
  2. Transit vehicles while at layover or stopover are not permitted to idle for longer than 3 minutes.
  3. Windsor Police Service and Essex Windsor EMS must not idle for the convenience of the operator.
  4. Ambient temperatures are no longer included in current by-law.

D. Coronado suggests the Air Subcommittee be tasked with amending the current Anti-Idling By-law.

C. Wright, Co-Chair thanks Ms. Jeffery for her presentation.

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **6.1 Milkweed Enforcement**

A. Parent indicates in conversation with the Manager of By-law Enforcement the following information was provided:

Under By-law 3-2006, "*A By-law to establish standards respecting yard waste and exterior property maintenance*", weeds are defined as those items found in the Weed Control Act. The City of Windsor By-law Enforcement Unit does not interpret or enforce the Weed Control Act. They ensure the grass is kept below 12 inches as outlined in the By-law and require property owners to maintain this minimum standard. . Therefore, if Milkweed is planted on a property in part of a Naturalized Area, as defined in the by-law, with a buffer strip of 2 feet to other properties, it does not need to be killed or cut down.

### **6.2 Tree By-law Update**

A. Parent states at the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee at its meeting held November 20, 2013; it was communicated that the establishment of a Subcommittee must be approved by City Council when staff resources are required.

## **7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

A. Parent provides an overview of the Coordinator's Report.

## **8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Air**

D. Coronado advises comments will be provided at a future meeting relating to the City of Windsor's recently released Report on the State of our Environment.

## **8.2 Transportation**

F. Butler provides the report of the Transportation Subcommittee, attached as Appendix "D".

T. Stomp leaves the meeting at 7:10 o'clock p.m.

## **8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands**

J. Costa Gardner advises a preliminary biological inventory of the Ojibway lands will commence this month. He notes a "Bio-Blitz" that identifies species will be undertaken.

## **8.4 Water Quality**

No report.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 It is generally agreed further information be obtained before inviting Dr. Saad Jasim, Director, International Joint Commission to a future meeting of WECEC to discuss the algae bloom toxins and the effects on human health as well as ways to mitigate this threat.

9.2 In terms of alternates for members of WECEC, it is agreed organizations must send a letter to Council Services identifying the alternate member.

9.3 The Co-Chair requests members provide suggestions for future Green Speakers.

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment 6<sup>th</sup> Concession Road/North Talbot Road is received for information.

10.2 The Great Lakes E-News, Fall 2013 is received for information.

10.3 A. Parent states the Walkerville BIA requested WECEC provide a letter in support of their proposed streetscaping design promoting walkability as discussed during the Green Speaker Series with Dan Burden.

10.4 The Windsor Star article entitled “Windsor needs more tree planting, less energy use, denser population” is received for information.

10.5 The Windsor Star article entitled “Human activity kills birds by the millions, study finds” is received for information.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:21 o'clock p.m.

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Charlie Wright, Co-Chair

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Committee Coordinator