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Windsor, Ontario January 10, 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, 4155 Ojibway Parkway, there being present the following members:

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Councillor Hilary Payne
Frank Butler (alternate for Rick Coronado)
Pauline Cheslock
Matthew Child
Derek Coronado
Jesse Costa Gardner (alternate for Phil Roberts)
Teresa Czerwinski (alternate for Dean Clevert)
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Karen Fallon
Evan Freeman-Gibb
John Miller
Phil Roberts
Tamara Stomp

Regrets received from:

Paul Henshaw
Radwan Tamr

Guest in attendance:

Tom Henderson, Chair, Detroit River Public Advisory Council

Also present are the following resource personnel:

James Bryant, County Engineering Department
Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Beau Wansbrough, Planner II
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Councillor Payne, seconded by T. Stomp,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its
meeting held December 6, 2012 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. **PRESENTATION**

The presentation is deferred to the February 7, 2013 WECEC meeting to allow
Mr. Richard Wyma, Director, Essex Region Conservation Authority to be in attendance.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 **Trip to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**

A. Parent advises members of WECEC have been invited to tour the Detroit River
International Wildlife Refuge on June 14, 2013. She notes Environmental groups and the
media have also been invited to tour the Refuge.

6.2 **Energy Conservation Campaign Update**

A. Parent reports EcoSpex, a Toronto based business will partner with WECEC as
part of the Energy Conservation Campaign. She indicates outreach will continue to
include organizations and companies championing energy conservation. She notes a
Green Speaker Series event will be included in collaboration with the Windsor Home
Show to be held from April 5-7, 2013.

7. **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

A. Parent provides an overview of the WECEC Operating Budget for 2013. She
notes City Council will consider the request at the upcoming budget deliberations.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Air

D. Coronado states some relatively minor amendments have been made to the Municipal Act which allows municipalities to lend homeowners money for improvements such as energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

C. Wright indicates the change in legislation relating to the loan program will be a cost to the municipality.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair refers to the report of the Deputy City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services and Real Estate dated November 27, 2012 entitled “Local Improvement Charges Regulation amendment”, attached as Appendix “A”.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by D. Coronado,
That Windsor and Essex County Municipalities **BE REQUESTED** to adopt changes in provincial legislation that allows for the creation of a loan program by the municipality for residential property owners to improve energy efficiency and/or install renewable energy systems.

Carried.

8.2 Transportation

F. Butler advises he recently met with representatives from the Windsor Bicycling Committee regarding the “Draft Ontario Ministry of Transportation Cycling Strategy”, attached as Appendix “B” for information purposes.

The following comments from WECEC relating to the MTO Cycling Strategy are provided:

- *“It would be beneficial to include E-bikes in your efforts to educate the public through handouts as well as inclusion in the new driver’s handbook.*
- *The attached recommendations from the Coroner’s Report are helpful, but we noticed that they are not included in the cycling strategy. We recommend adopting the recommendations in the Coroner’s Report, including a mandatory helmet bylaw as well as a 1 metre passing rule.*
- *It would be helpful if the MTO could identify what cities such as Windsor could do to qualify for funding similar in proportion to that received by Metrolinx in Toronto.*
- *Regarding the Bicycle Survey, we encourage the MTO to extend their research to include types of cities which are more common across Ontario – small to mid-sized cities.*
- *As part of “encouraging municipalities to collect and share data” in Section 2.3, it would be helpful for the MTO to provide funding for cities to update their cycling plans in order to share current and relevant data.*

- *A major MTO project occurring in Windsor is the Herb Gray Parkway. We would like to see the parkway connected to the new bridge through cycling infrastructure. This would allow cyclists to cross the bridge into the United States. Language to support these types of cross-boundary connections would be beneficial to have in the Cycling Strategy.*
- *We commend the province for launching the strategy and support Eleanor McMahon's praise for your efforts. Windsor will look forward to the opportunity to apply for cycling infrastructure funding under the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative."*

Moved by F. Butler, seconded by P. Cheslock,
That the foregoing comments by WECEC relating to the Draft Ontario Ministry of Transportation Cycling Strategy **BE SUPPORTED**.
Carried.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

P. Roberts indicates the Subcommittee appeared before City Council at its meeting held December 3, 2012 to speak to the airport woodlots and open space designation matter. He notes the open space designation in between the three woodlots was approved; however, the 120 metre buffer surrounding the woodlots was not approved. Council has requested further information regarding the buffer and if it is required.

P. Roberts refers to the following motion approved at the December 6, 2012 meeting of WECEC:

Moved by J. Costa Gardner, seconded by D. Clevett,
"That the Provincially Significant Wetlands Committee in partnership with the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Organization, the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Essex County Stewardship Network BE REQUESTED to investigate connecting woodlots on the Airport Lands and further, that the findings BE PRESENTED to WECEC and then forwarded on to City Council.

Carried.

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by F. Butler,
That Administration and the Airport Authority **BE REQUESTED** to facilitate an investigation to connect the woodlots on the Airport Lands.

Carried.

8.4 Water Quality

M. Child reports the Subcommittee continues to work to educate residents regarding the damage phosphorous has caused to lakes and rivers and plans are underway

to begin a community phosphorous campaign. This would build on the blue green algae video by educating residents about how to read product labels such as fertilizer and laundry soap and compare the phosphorous content for various products. The Subcommittee discussed acquiring permission to use phosphorous free lawn signs on city parks.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair advises the blue green algae video will be presented to City Council at a future date and he suggests representatives from the Ministry of Environment be invited to attend the Council meeting.

8.5 Surplus Parks Strategy

A. Parent states a comprehensive map depicting the locations of the City of Windsor surplus parks was provided to WECEC by the Parks Department. The Surplus Parks Strategy group will meet to discuss which sites may be candidates for naturalization or community gardens.

P. Roberts notes there is opportunity to plant different types of trees to address the urban heat island issue.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Fluoride Campaign Update

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair states no date has been established for City Council to review the fluoridation in the water matter. R. Dzugen indicates he along with M. Barlett will speak on behalf of Local 200 at the City Council meeting.

C. Wright, Co-Chair advises the Town of Leamington does not fluoridate its water supply, and if chemicals can be eliminated, they should be eliminated.

9.2 Pitch in Ontario Campaign

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair indicates he will contact the Environmental Services Manager, City of Windsor regarding participation in the Pitch In Ontario Campaign and will report back.

T. Stomp leaves the meeting at 6:50 o'clock p.m.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 The Windsor Star article dated October 31, 2012 entitled "Monsters that lurk" is received for information.

- 10.2 The Windsor Star article dated December 14, 2012 entitled “Restore area between swamps” is received for information.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair states he received an e-mail from D. Clevett advising that the two remaining coal fire plants in Ontario will close in 2013.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2013 at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:55 o'clock p.m.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator