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Windsor, Ontario January 5, 2012

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

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Mark Bartlett
Pauline Cheslock
Matthew Child
Dean Clevett
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Paul Henshaw
John Miller
Phil Roberts
Tamara Stomp
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:40 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Karen Fallon

Also present are the following resource personnel:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:32 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.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by M. Bartlett, seconded by M. Child,

That the minutes of the meeting held December 1, 2011 **BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED** to add the word “*reduced*” to the phrase “*and further, that the reduced summer schedule for Transit Windsor BE ELIMINATED as it limits ridership*”.

Carried.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 **Speaker Series – Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada**

A. Parent advises that Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada has been confirmed as part of the “Green Speaker Series” to speak on January 28, 2012 at the Dr. David Suzuki Public School, 6320 Raymond Street at 10:30 o’clock a.m.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by P. Cheslock

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an upset amount of \$200.00 as an honorarium for Elizabeth May, Leader Green Party of Canada to speak at the Dr. David Suzuki Public School, 6320 Raymond Street, Windsor, Ontario on January 28, 2012 at 10:30 o’clock a.m.

Carried.

5.2 **Renewable Energy Media Campaign**

A. Parent indicates that the Media Campaign is underway and notes she will contact the solar industry to ensure their support. She notes the Campaign will encompass all forms of renewable energy as outlined in the Green Energy Act.

5.3 **New WECEC Appointments**

A. Parent reports that contact has been made with the University of Windsor and St. Clair College regarding the creation of two student positions on WECEC.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by C. Wright,

That the Terms of Reference for the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee **BE AMENDED** to replace the 2 positions (city/county representatives) with two student representatives (from the University of Windsor and/or St. Clair College).

Carried.

6. **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The December 2011 WECEC Monthly Report is received for information.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1 **Air**

An e-mail from D. Coronado dated January 10, 2012 entitled "EPA Issues First National Standards for Mercury Pollution from Power Plants" is **attached** as Appendix "A".

7.2 **Transportation**

D. Clevett indicates that a motion will be provided by the Office of Brian Masse, MP relating to "higher speed rail".

7.3 **Provincially Significant Wetlands**

Discussion ensues relating to the letter dated December 6, 2011 sent to Mr. Ron Stang (WindsorOntarioNews.com) on behalf of WECEC regarding his article entitled "No de-icing airplanes...at an airport?" M. Child suggests that any future letters sent on behalf of WECEC be vetted by the Committee.

R. Tamr leaves the meeting at 6:34 o'clock p.m.

M. Child requests that members have an opportunity to review the Black Oak Video.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair states he recently spoke to representatives from the Mobility Group regarding the compensation lands who advised that the Ministry of Natural Resources is the deciding body relating to compensation/mitigation. He adds that a meeting has been convened with the Mobility Group on January 20, 2012 to discuss the compensation strategy. He states that the time and location of the meeting will be provided to interested members wishing to attend.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Notice of Motion – Blue W Community Based Tap Water Promotion Campaign

A. Parent indicates that the Blue W Community is a non-profit group which encourages businesses to offer municipal tap water free of charge to Windsor residents.

She notes when a business embraces the initiative, a sign is placed in the storefront that promotes free tap water for the public.

Moved by M. Bartlett, seconded by P. Cheslock,

WHEREAS the City of Windsor has adapted a policy to promote tap water at municipal buildings therefore promoting a choice between tap water and bottled water; and

WHEREAS the reduction of bottled water consumption decreases the amount of energy consumed to handle the waste and/or recycling of plastics; and

WHEREAS the promotion of readily available free tap water positively affects the low socio-economic sector; and

WHEREAS tap water available in the summer contributes to the Regional Heat Alert and Response Plan therefore potentially decreasing the amount of heat related illness; and

WHEREAS tap water represents a healthier choice to individuals, specifically children when compared to sugar laden soft drinks; and

WHEREAS businesses offering tap water free of charge may be seen as socially and environmentally responsible therefore increasing commercial foot traffic and aligning shops with community interests;

THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the City of Windsor and the County of Essex participates in the Blue W Community-based Tap Water Promotion Campaign which encourages businesses to offer municipal tap water free of charge to Windsor residents. This will be promoted through the Blue W website and smart phone applications, a media campaign as well as store front window stickers.

Carried.

8.2 Lake Erie Algal Blooms

M. Child distributes the “Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan – Annual Report 2011”, attached as Appendix “B”.

M. Child succinctly provides the following information relating to the Lake Erie Algal Blooms:

- Water quality in the Great Lakes has been deteriorating due to increases in biologically available nutrient loadings. Harmful algal blooms and swimming beach postings or closures are resulting with increasing frequency.
- Non-point sources of pollution (pollution associated with diffuse land uses) are the primary driver of current water quality problems.
- Algal growth is driven to a large degree by phosphorus loadings.
- Biologically available phosphorus is typically found in phosphorus applied to lawns, gardens and agricultural areas, as well as livestock and human waste.

- Weather is also driving current algal problems – more frequent and intense storms increases runoff and erosion and flushes phosphorus into the watercourses and into the Lakes.
- Many local activities targeting reductions in phosphorus loadings were presented.
- Several suggested areas for WECEC involvement in phosphorus reductions were discussed.

It is suggested that the Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee review and formulate strategies to reduce phosphorus loading locally.

Moved by M. Bartlett, seconded by D. Clevett,
That the Lake Erie algal blooms issue **BE REFERRED** to the Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee for the purpose of formulating strategies to reduce phosphorus loading locally.
Carried.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- 9.1 The WECEC letter of support for the Zero Waste opposition campaign to the Detroit Incinerator is deferred to the February 2, 2012 meeting.
- 9.2 The WECEC request to revise the WindsorOntarioNews.com article is received for information.

M. Bartlett announces that an “Alternative Energy Teach-In” will be held on January 7, 2012 from 1:00 o’clock p.m. to 5:00 o’clock p.m. at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue. The flyer for the Alternative Energy Teach-In is distributed and attached as Appendix “C”.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 5:30 o’clock p.m. in the YQG Windsor Airport Board Room.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:30 o’clock p.m.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator (A)