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Windsor, Ontario March 29, 2012

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 (arrives at 5:58 p.m.)
Councillor Hilary Payne
Shahbaz Ahmed
Matthew Child
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Karen Fallon
Paul Henshaw
Phil Roberts
Tamara Stomp (arrives at 5:45 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Juliet Mohammed
Radwan Tamr

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 5:34 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 declared.

4. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by M. Child, seconded by K. Fallon,
That the minutes of the meeting of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee held March 1, 2012 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 **Renewable Energy Media Campaign**

A. Parent advises she met with several solar energy companies as well as the Windsor Essex Economic Development Corporation and is pleased to report that significant campaign support has been received. She indicates the objectives of the Public Education Campaign Goal are as follows:

- Increase understanding of the innumerable benefits of solar energy and technologies
- Encourage access to solar energy technologies
- Demonstrate the value of solar energy and technologies and applications within our region
- Create a series of factoids to reduce the complexity of explanations, and dispel the myths surrounding solar concepts and technologies
- Raise awareness of solar energy technologies as a science, technology and engineering discipline

5.2 **New WECEC Appointments**

The application/resume from Keri Bagley, St. Clair College is distributed and **attached** as Appendix "A".

Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by P. Henshaw,
That the applications from student representatives Evan Freeman-Gibb (University of Windsor) and Keri Bagley (St. Clair College) to sit on the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee **BE FORWARDED** to the Striking Committee of Council for approval.
Carried.

5.3 **Updated WECEC Strategic Plan**

Discussion ensues relating to the elimination of Strategic Action Plan 2012 Direction #2 which states:

“Goal: *Develop policy statements that reflect current state of environmental issues.*”

The salient points of discussion relating to the development of policy statements are as follows:

- Determine if there is an area of policy for the municipality to pursue. Contact the sponsoring municipalities for their input.
- Suggestion to develop a one page succinct policy.
- WECEC has approved a number of motions that are essentially policies, i.e. clean water, increasing wetlands, Solid Waste Master plan. If the development of policies is removed from the Strategic Action Plan, WECEC is denuded.
- Recommendation that the Environment and Sustainability Coordinator attend a policy writing course.

It is generally agreed that the Strategic Action Plan 2012 Direction #2 relating to the development of policy statements remain in the Strategic Action Plan.

5.4 Green Speaker Series

A. Parent states that Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has agreed to speak in Windsor on May 12, 2012 as part of the “Green Speaker Series”. She advises Mr. Miller is not requesting travel expenses or hotel costs. It is suggested the event be held at the Dr. David Suzuki Public School.

Moved by M. Child, seconded by C. Wright,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 for costs associated with the Green Speaker Series, Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, guest speaker to be held on May 12, 2012 at 10:00 o’clock a.m. at the Dr. David Suzuki Public School, 6320 Raymond, Windsor, Ontario.
Carried.

A. Parent will contact the office of Gord Miller to inquire as to the subject matter of his speech.

6. COORDINATOR’S REPORT

A. Parent states she attended a local food forum entitled “Growing Food Partnerships” on March 3, 2012. She notes that presentations were provided by “Go for Health Windsor Essex”, the Ontario Student Nutrition Program, and the Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable. It is suggested the former Local Food Subcommittee be revived in order to bring issues forward to City and County Councils.

A. Parent reports Earth Day 2012 will be held on April 22, 2012 at Malden Park with displays and the planting of a native plant garden. The theme this year is local food

– “I like my food naked, near and natural”. She requests volunteers to man the booth from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The following volunteer to assist on Earth Day – C. Wright, Councillor Halberstadt and P. Henshaw.

A. Parent distributes an invoice from eliquidMEDIA International Inc. in the amount of \$734.50 for WECEC’s website maintenance and expansion, attached as Appendix “B”.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by P. Roberts,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$734.50 (including HST) payable to eliquidMEDIA International Inc. for the WECEC Website Maintenance and Expansion.
Carried.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Air

As it relates to the Ontario Feed-In Tariff Review (FIT), D. Coronado provides the following updates:

- No inclusion of Waste-to-Energy technology
- Wind and solar tariffs reduced
- New emphasis of community power – points system and 10% of capacity set aside
- Additional community consultation to be developed with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- FIT price review moves to annual review
- Possible new renewable targets
- Connection barriers remain and no inclusion of new renewable technologies

The report of the Air Subcommittee is attached as Appendix “C”.

7.2 Transportation

No report.

7.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

P. Roberts advises that the Subcommittee will attend the Environment and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on April 25, 2012 when the response to the report regarding the Ojibway Shores will be addressed.

P. Roberts states the Subcommittee will review the publicly owned Natural Heritage candidate sites (on certain criteria yet to be determined) and will develop a list of prioritized lands to be evaluated by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Moved by P. Roberts, seconded by T. Stomp,
That the City of Windsor and the County of Essex **BE REQUESTED** to send a letter of support for the continuation of project funding for the Lake Erie Coastal Trail being developed by the Carolinian Canada Coalition.
Carried.

Moved by K. Fallon, seconded by R. Dzugan,
WHEREAS the Lake Erie Coastal Trail will help to bring residents, tourists, government, industry, nature and culture together to enable a naturally, culturally and economically sustainable coastline; and

WHEREAS the Trail will contribute to commitments made in the City of Windsor Environmental Master Plan as well as the County Wide Active Transportation Study;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Windsor and the County of Essex show support for the Lake Erie Coastal Trail being developed by the Carolinian Canada Coalition by sending a letter of support for the continuation of project funding.
Carried.

7.4 Water Quality

M. Child indicates that a Subcommittee meeting was recently held to discuss the Nutrient Management Act. A representative from OMAFRA was present to provide information relating to the large role soil erosion is playing in the increase of nutrients to the Great Lakes.

Moved by M. Child, seconded by P. Henshaw,
WHEREAS the Great Lakes are the world's largest surface freshwater resource, support one of the world's largest economies and are a fundamental part of the cultural and social fabric of millions of Canadians and Americans; and

WHEREAS the lower Great Lakes, and Lake Erie in particular, have experienced worsening water quality in recent years, especially harmful algal blooms which impair water quality, fish and wildlife populations and aesthetic values; and,

WHEREAS a key driver of these impairments is nutrient loadings from non-point sources throughout the watersheds draining to the lower Great Lakes, and nutrient cycling within the lakes which is influenced by a variety of factors including aquatic invasive species and climate variability; and,

WHEREAS improving water quality in the lower Great Lakes will require extensive and coordinated action of governments, commerce, communities and residents; and,

WHEREAS the binational *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* renegotiation is currently nearing completion, and the renewed Agreement is expected to compel the governments of Canada and the United States to effectively address non-point sources of nutrients to the lower Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem* is a principal mechanism for cooperative environmental progress on the Great Lakes in Canada, and the current Agreement will expire in June, 2012;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee urges the governments of Canada and Ontario to renew and increase their investment in the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem* prior to June, 2012 and ensure the Agreement has an effective and substantial emphasis on mitigation of nutrient loadings to Lake Erie and factors influencing nutrient cycling within the Lake.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Councils of the City of Windsor and the County of Essex for their endorsement.

Carried.

P. Roberts requests that the Subcommittee provide a motion for the May 3, 2012 WECEC meeting regarding the “E-09 Buffer Strips Policy Amendment, Municipality of Leamington” which would be forwarded to City and County Councils.

P. Roberts congratulates ERCA on the increase of Naturalized Tree Cover from 7.5% to 8.5% of the region, for a gain of approximately 4,100 acres . and requested that ERCA provide WECEC with their method of measurement for this parameter. The Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors Report dated March 27, 2012 entitled “Recalculation of Natural Areas Cover” is attached as Appendix ”D”.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Waste to Energy FIT Program

Discussed in Item 7.1.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:20 o'clock p.m.

CO-CHAIR

(A) COMMITTEE COORDINATOR