

Windsor, Ontario November 1, 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
Shahbaz Ahmed
Dean Clevett
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Jesse Costa Gardner (alternate for Phil Roberts)
Roger Dzugen (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Evan Freeman-Gibb (arrives at 5:55 p.m.)
John Miller (arrives at 5:55 p.m.)
Phil Roberts
Tamara Stomp (arrives at 5:40 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Councillor Hilary Payne
Pauline Cheslock
Matthew Child
Karen Fallon
Paul Henshaw
Juliet Mohammed
Radwan Tamr

Guest in attendance:

Klaus Dohring, President, Green Sun Rising Inc.

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 5:34 o'clock p.m. and states there are an insufficient number of members to constitute a quorum at this time.

5. PRESENTATION

Klaus Dohring, President, Green Sun Rising Inc. is present to provide information relating to the solar industry in Windsor-Essex County. The presentation entitled "Solar Opportunities for Windsor and Essex County" is ***attached*** as Appendix "A". The salient points of discussion relating to the solar industry presentation are as follows:

- Green Sun Rising has over 500 kW of implemented grid-connected systems and over 100 solar systems implemented in Canada.
- Solar PV can become a significant electricity provider in Ontario
- Solar Thermal – Ontarians can meet 50% to 60% of their domestic water heating energy needs with solar.
- Engineering and design plus implementation of solar systems can become a significant employer in Ontario.
- 1 m² sunshine in Essex County per year = 1 m³ tar sand energy or 0.9 barrels of crude oil energy equivalent
- All solar power is sold into the grid and paid for per the tariff.
- Germany has 25% of their energy derived from renewables.
- Wind and solar power far surpasses nuclear energy at a significant lower cost.

T. Stomp states solar panels are totally benign, clean and nonpolluting but are costly.

In response to a question asked by T. Stomp regarding if solar panels are sustainable in excess of 20 years, K. Dohring responds that is correct. He suggests that if a new roof is required, that it be replaced prior to the installation of the solar panels.

Councillor Halberstadt thanks Mr. Dohring for his presentation.

There are now a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum (5:55 o'clock p.m.).

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

None disclosed.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by P. Roberts,
That the minutes of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held September 6, 2012 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 **City of Windsor Climate Change Adaptation Plan & urban Heat Island Study**

Windsor City Council at its meeting held September 17, 2012 adopted the following resolution:

M428-2012 “That Report No. 77 of the Environment & Transportation Standing Committee of its meeting held August 29, 2012 regarding the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan **BE ADOPTED** as presented”.

WECEC at its meeting held September 6, 2012 approved the following motion:
*“That a working group consisting of D. Coronado, M. Bartlett, J. Miller, P. Roberts and R. Tamr **BE ESTABLISHED** to review the possible naturalization and/or repurposing of surplus parks as part of the evaluation process”.*

P. Roberts requests the WECEC Coordinator convene a meeting with the Executive Director of Parks and Facilities and the working group (noted above) to discuss urban park closures. It is generally agreed D. Coronado will Chair the meeting.

6.2 **Provincial Urban Forest Policy Recommendation**

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair indicates the cost for the city to remove the diseased trees caused by the Emerald Ash Borer was approximately \$4 million.

Moved by D. Clevett, seconded by J. Miller,
WHEREAS urban forests have been shown to produce energy cost savings, for example, residents of Peel Region’s urban areas save \$2.5 annually in heating and cooling through shading and windbreak provided by trees¹, and;

WHEREAS urban forests have the potential to improve air quality through the removal of air pollutants and the storage and sequestration of carbon. For example, recent studies show that Peel Region’s urban forest removes 855 tonnes of air pollution

annually, sequesters 19,000 tonnes of carbon annually and stores 400,000 tonnes in total. These services are valued at \$9.1 million, \$550,000 and \$11.5 million respectively, and;

WHEREAS methods of green infrastructure such as urban forests have been shown as a cost-effective means to decrease storm water runoff and combined sewer overflows by capturing runoff and retaining it before it can reach the sewer system², and;

WHEREAS an investment in green infrastructure is an investment in biodiversity, a declared priority of both the provincial and national governments, and;

WHEREAS numerous studies indicate that property values increase anywhere from 5 to 30 percent depending on the size and type of green space, the type of housing and the distance from the green space³, and;

WHEREAS urban forest issues can result in high unforeseen costs for municipalities, for example, the City of Windsor spent \$4 million as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer pest issue in Windsor,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City and County Councils urge both the Provincial and the Federal governments to develop and implement Urban Tree Policies which provide municipalities with direction as well as monetary support when dealing with urban tree issues.

Carried.

7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Parent reports there are currently 30 Environmental Advisory Committees throughout the province, however, there has not been a positive response regarding attendance at the Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium to be held on November 17, 2012. She notes the Symposium may be cancelled due to low attendance.

C. Wright, Co-Chair suggests A. Parent contact the Environmental Advisory Committees to determine interest. It is generally agreed if there are less than 15 attending the Symposium by November 7, 2012, that the event be cancelled.

J. Costa Gardner suggests if the Symposium is cancelled, that consideration be given to hosting a "webinar" (web-based seminar). T. Stomp requests A. Parent investigate the cost for the webinar and to contact the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as the FCM utilizes this tool.

A. Parent states the focus for the second phase of WECEC's education campaign will be on energy conservation. This campaign will focus on conserving energy, such as reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This topic will create the potential for campaign partners, including educational institutions, local distribution companies such as EnWin as well as businesses who sell energy efficient products to homeowners.

T. Stomp suggests promotional (educational) items be purchased to be provided as handouts for events such as Earth Day.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by R. Dzugan,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the amount of \$1,500 for the Energy Efficient Campaign plus \$300 for the purchase of educational promotional materials to be provided as handouts at environmental events.

Carried.

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 **Air**

The “Air Quality Subcommittee Report – October 2012” is attached as Appendix “B”. D. Coronado states minor amendments to the Municipal Act, 2001 have set the stage for Ontarians to reduce emissions, save money and increase employment. The amendments allow municipalities to lend homeowners low interest loans for improvements such as energy efficiency and renewable energy systems. The loans can be tied to the property rather than to the homeowner.

T. Stomp requests D. Coronado provide additional information relating to the new legislation in the Municipal Act pertaining to the low interest loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

8.2 **Transportation**

Moved by D. Clevett, seconded by T. Stomp,

WHEREAS the ridership in Windsor has increased by 4% this year; and

WHEREAS numerous developments downtown support an increase in service from outlying areas to the downtown, including the new Aquatic Centre and the University of Windsor campuses as well as the St. Clair College campuses; and

WHEREAS a decrease in service will result in decreased ridership and will have lasting effects on residents’ consideration to take transit; and

WHEREAS implementing an increase in user fees can deter transit ridership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council exempt Transit Windsor from the 10% budget cut proposal allowing Transit Windsor to maintain their 2012 budget and further, allow Transit Windsor’s budget to increase in order to provide increased preventative maintenance and transit services to Windsor residents.

Carried.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

P. Roberts reports he recently spoke at the Carolinian Canada's Coastal Trail Conference and his topic of discussion was the importance of linking ecological habitats along the shore of Lake Erie.

Discussion ensues regarding the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge which was established in 2001 as a result of binational efforts from politicians, conservation leaders and local communities to build a sustainable future for the Detroit River and western Lake Erie ecosystems. Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair suggests a tour of the Refuge be convened for WECEC members.

P. Roberts requests the WECEC Coordinator contact Richard Wyma, General Manager, Essex Region Conservation Authority to provide a presentation on their recently released Trail On! campaign encouraging the adoption of recreational trails by community groups and residents.

8.4 Water Quality

A. Parent states the Water Quality Subcommittee hosted a successful press conference to unveil the WECEC PSA video which highlights the causes and potential solutions to algae issues in Lake Erie. The event was well attended by members of the public, Councillors, media as well as ERCA, MOE and IJC representatives. She notes the video is currently on YouTube and copies have been distributed to Cogeco as well as various schools. This education initiative will be ongoing.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 WECEC Meeting Schedule and Attendance

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair advises there have been issues with attaining quorum and asks if the complement of members is too large. It is generally agreed that members who have missed three consecutive meetings will be contacted to determine if there is interest in sitting on WECEC.

P. Roberts suggests the recruitment/attendance subcommittee be reinstated.

9.2 WECEC 2013 Budget Request

A. Parent states WECEC is requesting \$4,150 from the City of Windsor and \$4,150 from the County of Essex as their 2013 Operating Budget.

P. Roberts suggests WECEC's monthly meeting venue be changed to the Ojibway Nature Centre (with a charge of \$50 for the room rental).

Moved by E. Freeman-Gibb, seconded by T. Stomp,
That the Business Plan and Financial Request for the 2013 Budget deliberations
BE APPROVED.
Carried.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 The Windsor Star article dated October 17, 2012 entitled "Video campaign aims to reduce lake algae" is received for information.

10.2 An e-mail from Michael Goffin, Regional Director General – Ontario Region Environment Canada dated October 26, 2012 congratulating WECEC for the effective and informative video on the Lake Erie algae problem is received for information.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on December 6, 2012 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 7:35 o'clock p.m.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator