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Windsor, Ontario October 3, 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
Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Mark Bartlett
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Jesse Costa Gardner
Roger Dzugan (alternate)
John Miller
Mike Nelson

Regrets received from:

Pauline Cheslock
Evan Freeman-Gibb
Radwan Tamr

Guest in attendance:

David Hanna

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

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:00 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

5. PRESENTATION

Sigrid Mosmann – Preservation of Trees in Windsor-Essex County

Sigrid Mosmann distributes “Submissions in Support of a By-law for the Preservation of Trees on Private Property – October 3, 2013”, attached as Appendix “A”. The highlights of Ms. Mossmann’s presentation are as follows:

- Several municipalities in Ontario have adopted by-laws to protect private trees which include the following cities – Toronto, Mississauga, Kingston, Brampton, Markham, Vaughan, Oakville, Brantford, Pickering and Peterborough.
- According to the website of the City of Windsor Parks & Forestry Department, Essex County has less than 8% forest coverage, the lowest in all of Ontario.
- Toronto has a current canopy of approximately 28%, with plans to increase that level to 40% as outlined in their current Strategic Forest Management Plan.
- From the year 2005, the Ontario Medical Association estimated that, in Essex County (including Windsor), there were 260 premature deaths, 900 hospital admissions and 2,750 emergency visits associated with poor air quality.
- It is a well known fact that trees help to settle out, trap and hold particle pollutants – according to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, trees produce enough oxygen on each acre for 18 people every day, and they absorb enough carbon dioxide on each acre, over a year’s time, to equal the amount you produce when you drive your car 26,000 miles.
- The Town of Oakville’s Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan (for 2008-2027) lists some of the other benefits of trees:
- Trees help to conserve energy by indirectly mitigating climatic effects through providing evaporative cooling, windbreak and shading functions, thus reducing human dependence on power generation.
- Trees contribute to water quality and quantity improvement through storm water control, attenuation of peak flows, maintenance of base flow, erosion control and rainfall interception.
- Urban forests cool watercourses and mitigate noise and dust.
- Trees provide habitat and food sources for wildlife such as birds, insects, small mammals and fish.
- Trees increase property values.
- One of the goals noted in the City of Windsor’s Official Plan is “To protect, conserve and improve the quality and quantity of Windsor’s natural features and functions.” A by-law protecting trees on private property is an opportunity to put the City’s intentions into action.

M. Bartlett advises a by-law to protect trees on private property is essential; however, a person with limited income often cannot afford to maintain their private trees.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair indicates if the private tree by-law is implemented, additional staff will be required to enforce the by-law. He suggests a meeting be convened with the City Forester along with several members of WECEC to

review existing private tree by-laws from various municipalities. Councillor Halberstadt, J. Miller, M. Nelson and B. Wansbrough volunteer to discuss the issue with the City Forester.

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by J. Costa Gardner,
That the Private Tree By-law Subcommittee consisting of Councillor Halberstadt, J. Miller, M. Nelson and B. Wansbrough **BE ESTABLISHED**.
Carried.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Moved by J. Miller, seconded by D. Coronado,
That Rule 3.3 (c) of the *Procedure By-law 98-2011* be waived to add the following additions to the Agenda:

- 10.6** Windsor Star Article dated September 9, 2013 entitled “A Gem, right in our midst”
- 10.7** Windsor Star Article entitled “Port Authority, environmental groups studying options for Ojibway Shores.

Carried.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

None disclosed.

4. MINUTES

Moved by R. Dzugan, seconded by M. Nelson,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held September 5, 2013 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Detroit River International Crossing

The response from Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport dated September 9, 2013 regarding the Detroit River International Crossing is received for information.

7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Parent states she has begun conducting research of various Smog Action Plans completed by other municipalities. She notes a "draft" Smog Action Plan for the City of Windsor will be completed in consultation with the City of Windsor Parks & Recreation Department and presented to WECEC.

M. Bartlett suggests electric or solar powered vehicles be utilized on smog action days.

Moved by R. Dzugan, seconded by Councillor Halberstadt,
That the WECEC Coordinator's Monthly Report dated September 2013 **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Air

D. Coronado reports Peche Island Day was held September 28, 2013 with approximately 545 people in attendance.

8.2 Transportation

No report.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

A. Parent advises Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager, Detroit International Wildlife Refuge along with Dr. Richard Wyma, General Manager, Essex Region Conservation Authority will speak at the Green Speaker Series to be held on October 22, 2013 at a venue to be determined. The Ojibway Shores has been suggested as a topic for the speakers.

J. Costa Gardner indicates members of the Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee met with the Windsor Port Authority on September 26, 2013 along with Jeff Watson, MP-Essex, Brian Masse, MP Windsor-West, Field Naturalists and other environmental groups. He notes the group requested the Port Authority to allow access to the Ojibway Shores property to undertake an environmental assessment. He states a verbal agreement was received from the Port Authority to allow access to the property in 2014. Also discussed at the meeting, were opportunities to secure the Ojibway Shores which included a 60-100 year land lease and a possible land swap with the Dorian Ford property.

8.4 Water Quality

No report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

M. Bartlett states “The Jellyfish Project” is a Canadian educational initiative formed by the musical group Mindil Beach Markets. Its purpose is to educate youth about ocean sustainability, climate change, and environmental stewardship through the power of music and live performance. He states the Mindil Beach group will visit the City of Windsor in May 2014.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 The letter from Green Sun Rising to Minister Chiarelli (Energy) regarding Ontario’s Long Term Energy Plan is received for information.

10.2 The Windsor Star article regarding the formation of the Windsor Essex EV Association is received for information.

10.3 The Link Detroit Construction Begins, Let’s celebrate – *Mode Shift* dated September 6, 2013 is received for information. J. Miller suggests the City of Windsor consider linking to the new cycling/walking trails.

10.4 The City of Windsor Council Report – Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Public Open House is received for information.

10.5 C. Wright, Co-Chair states he attended the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority Meeting held September 26, 2013 at the Seacliffe Inn, Leamington.

10.6 The Windsor Star article by Anne Jarvis dated September 9, 2013 entitled “A gem, right in our midst” is received for information.

10.7 The Windsor Star Article entitled “Port Authority, environmental groups studying options for Ojibway Shores” is received for information.

Moved by M. Bartlett, seconded by J. Costa Gardner,
That the resignations of Karen Fallon and Dean Clevett from the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee **BE RECEIVED** with regret.
Carried.

ACTION REQUIRED: A Parent to send a letter to Karen Fallon and Dean Clevett thanking them for their contributions to WECEC.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 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.

CHARLIE WRIGHT, CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR