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Windsor, Ontario September 6, 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:

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Councillor Hilary Payne (arrives at 5:45 p.m.)
Mark Bartlett (arrives at 5:45 p.m.)
Frank Butler (alternate for Rick Coronado)
Matthew Child
Dean Clevett (arrives at 6:05 p.m.)
Derek Coronado
Evan Freeman-Gibb
John Miller
Phil Roberts
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:50 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Rick Coronado
Roger Dzugan
Paul Henshaw
Juliet Mohammed
Karen Fallon

Also present are the following resource personnel:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:36 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

5. PRESENTATION

Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Karina Richters, Environmental Coordinator is present to provide information relating to the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The “Draft” Plan is attached as Appendix “A”. The PowerPoint presentation entitled “Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Initiative” is distributed and attached as Appendix “B”.

In response to the question – “Why is Adaptation Required?” the following remarks are noted:

“Regardless of the cause, changes in weather patterns already pose risks to the property, and the natural world in Ontario that cannot be ignored. Reducing those immediate risks is the only prudent course of action for all levels of government, as well as communities, corporations, businesses, and individual citizens.” – Climate Ready Ontario

“And now our world is different. The climate has been permanently altered and is on an escalating vector of change, not because of what we are going to put into the atmosphere in the future but as a consequence of what we have already done.”- Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, 2009/2010 Annual Report.

K. Richters indicates the Urban Heat Island Study has been completed. She notes the “hot spots” in Windsor are being reviewed.

K. Richters advises a pilot project for parking lots will be proposed to gain a better understanding of how porous pavements might work on clay soils.

P. Roberts suggests rather than eliminate parks due to the high maintenance costs, follow the example of Memorial Park and naturalize the parks.

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

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.

Carried.

Moved by M. Child, seconded by D. Coronado,

That Administration as a high priority **BE REQUESTED** to implement low impact development policies and pilot projects such as green/cool roofs, porous pavement and rain gardens, as well as modifications to development standards as outlined in the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Carried.

The Co-Chair thanks K. Richters for her presentation.

Blue-Green Algae in the Great Lakes Presentation

Chitra Gowda, ERCA, Water Quality Specialist and Paul Santos (cinematographer/editor) are present and available to answer questions. The video identifying blue-green algae in the Great Lakes is provided for WECEC. B. Wansbrough suggests the satellite image of the blue-green algae present in the video be shown at the end to provide additional impact.

The ERCA Blue-Green Algae Blooms Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) is **attached** as Appendix “C”. Some of the questions outlined in the FAQ include the following:

1. What are blue-green algae?
2. What are algal blooms and why do they happen?
3. Are algal blooms poisonous?
4. What happens if blue-green algae is in my drinking water?
5. Who do I call if I suspect the bloom is blue-green algae?
6. What do I do if I see blue-green algae on my shoreline?
7. What other testing for blue-green algae toxins in Lake Erie is being done?

P. Roberts suggests the video be shown to the 400-500 participants to be ferried to Peche Island for Peche Island Day to be held on September 22, 2012.

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by R. Tamr,
That the “Blue-Green Algae in the Great Lakes Presentation” provided by Chitra Gowda, ERCA, Water Quality Specialist and Paul Santos, cinematographer/editor **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

None.

4. MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by R. Tamr,
That the minutes of the Windsor-Essex County Advisory Committee at its meeting held July 5, 2012 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

Councillor Halberstadt requests the Environment & Sustainability Coordinator contact the Manager, Forestry & Horticulture to provide a motion to be sent to the Federal and Provincial Governments requesting the formation of an urban tree policy to better plan for urban greening initiatives..

Councillor Payne leaves the meeting at 6:50 o'clock p.m.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Renewable Energy Media Campaign

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

6.2 Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium

A. Parent indicates planning has begun for the 2012 Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium to be held on November 17, 2012 from 9:00 o'clock a.m. to 3:00 o'clock p.m. at the Pelee Days Inn in Leamington. She notes invitations will be sent to the various Environment Committees and a registration fee of \$15.00 will be charged.

C. Wright, Co-Chair suggests the registration fee be increased to \$25.00 rather than \$15.00. He offers to take the interested registrants on a tour throughout Point Pelee.

R. Tamr leaves the meeting at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Parent advises the balance of the WECEC Operating budget is \$427.81.

A. Parent reports Jim McKenzie, Principal to the Federal Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development will be showcased as the third speaker in the "Green Speaker Series" event to be focused on water quality and algae blooms. The event will be held in Kingsville in conjunction with the Migration Festival on October 21, 2012.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Air

D. Coronado states a “Smog Fair, Art Show & Silent Auction” reception will be held on September 22, 2012 at the Pop Gallery, 973 Erie Street East at 7:00 o’clock p.m.

8.2 Transportation

The notes from the Transportation Subcommittee provided by Frank Butler at its meeting held September 4, 2012 are attached as Appendix “D”. An overview of the Subcommittee meeting includes the following:

- Request VIA Rail to reinstate the full schedule of services recently eliminated.
- Discussion with Transit Windsor regarding the specifications on the proposed electric buses and the BYD proposal to operate a plant in Windsor.
- Transit Windsor has oldest bus fleet in the Province and will require additional buses to maintain present services and ridership growth.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

No report.

8.4 Water Quality

No report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 The Windsor This Week article entitled “Enviro Group Seeks Youth Composting Ambassadors” is received for information.

10.2 Councillor Halberstadt states the Windsor Bicycling Committee has undertaken a campaign for safe and dedicated bike lanes on the new international bridge crossing.

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by F. Butler,
That the “Draft-Share the Bridge Petition” including the request for safe and dedicated bike lanes on the new international crossing **BE SUPPORTED** by the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee.

Carried.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 4, 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 7:28 o’clock p.m.

Charlie Wright, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator