

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee
Meeting held April 25, 2019

A meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is held this day commencing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre, there being present the following members:

Councillor Chris Holt, Acting Chair
Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Keri Banar
Derek Coronado
Rosanna Demarco
Katie Kuker
Michael Schneider (arrives at 5:04 p.m.)
Richard St. Denis
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:20 p.m.)
Jerry Zhu

Regrets received from:

Hilda MacDonald, Mayor of Leamington
Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg

Guests in attendance:

Jennifer Escott
Tom Henderson, Public Advisory Council, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup regarding ***Item 5.1***
Hilary Payne, regarding ***Item 5.1***
Steve Tuffin, Director of Operations, YQG, regarding ***Item 5.1***

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Averil Parent, Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator
Karina Richters, Supervisor, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change
Amandeep Hans, Windsor Essex County Health Unit
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Committee Coordinator calls the meeting to order at 5:00 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

Motion to Approve an Acting Chair

As Hilda MacDonald, Mayor of Leamington and Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg are not present, the Committee Coordinator suggests one of the City Councillors be appointed Acting Chair for this meeting only.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by D. Coronado,
That Councillor Holt **BE APPOINTED** Acting Chair for the April 25, 2019 meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee.
Carried.

2 Presentations

2.1 Brief Introduction and History of WECEC

A. Parent provides a Presentation that highlights such topics as the Mandate of WECEC, past initiatives relating to Green Speakers, the Pat on the Back Awards, and the WECEC motions sent to City/County Councils. The Presentation entitled "Welcome to the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee!" is **attached** as Appendix "A".

2.2 Presentation by Save Ojibway regarding the Seasonal Closure of Matchette Road

The presentation is deferred to a future meeting of WECEC.

3. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

4. Minutes

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee of its meeting held November 29, 2018 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. Business Items

5.1 Airport Woodlots Motion and Response from the Airport

Tom Henderson, Public Advisory Council, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup appears before the Committee and provides the highlights of his e-mail dated April 20, 2019, **attached** as Appendix "B" as follows:

- The City of Windsor, the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup decided to plant trees at the Windsor Airport in 2013.
- The goal was to join the central and easternmost woodlands to create an interior forest which would help to increase tree cover.
- Plans were approved by City Council and planting commenced in May 2013 at a cost of \$30,000.
- ERCA biologists checked the progress and reported that the survival rate exceeded expectations.
- Airport staff raised no objections to the project based on the safety factors at that time.
- In 2015, airport management forbade ERCA from entering the property to maintain the trees. Airport staff reported that 90% of the trees were dead.

Hilary Payne, appears before the Committee and provides an overview of his document entitled "Tree Planting At Airport", **attached** as Appendix "C" as follows:

- A report to Council dated April 26, 2013 stated that "YQG has reviewed the request and is satisfied that the planting of trees will not negatively affect airport operations."
- The YQG report to WECEC in no way justifies the actions taken by Airport Administration in 2015 which led to the demise of the trees planted.
- A motion is provided for WECEC which requests that City Council approve the transfer of \$30,000 from YQG to ERCA for tree planting elsewhere in the City and/or County.

Steve Tuffin, Director of Operations, YQG indicates that the YQG Airport Board did not approve the planting of trees, rather the former Director of Operations granted the permission to plant. He adds the planting occurred in woodlots inhabited by deer, coyotes and birds which are not friendly to airplanes.

Averil Parent states WECEC at its meeting held November 29, 2018 adopted the following motion:

“That Administration from YQG Windsor International Airport BE REQUESTED to provide a formal submission and/or for a representative to attend a future meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee to address the matter of tree planting on airport lands.”

The foregoing motion was approved by City Council at its meeting held March 25, 2019 (CR134/2019).

In response to a question asked by Councillor McKenzie regarding if the elimination of trees is part of the capital plan, S. Tuffin responds the elimination of trees is not part of the capital plan as these are provincially significant woodlands.

T. Henderson adds that it is his impression that ERCA is not interested in pursuing YQG for the \$30,000 to plant trees elsewhere.

D. Coronado states WECEC should be supporting the planting of trees in the city. The issue is not safety as there are no serious safety concerns. The airport was remiss in allowing these trees to die. He advises WECEC should reiterate its support for YQG to pay \$30,000.

S. Tuffin further states in the Spring of 2015, ERCA asked for permission to access airport lands. The YQG Board indicated there would be no further planting of trees due to safety issues, and access was denied.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Richard St. Denis,

That Administration from the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) **BE REQUESTED** to provide a formal submission and/or for a representative to attend a future meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee to provide their position on the 2013 tree planting on the airport lands and on further actions if deemed necessary.

Carried.

6. Coordinator’s Report

No report.

7. Subcommittee Reports

7.1 Air Subcommittee

D. Coronado reports the City of Detroit denied Marathon Petroleum's request to continue storing pet coke in an uncovered storage facility.

7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

No report.

8. New Business

8.1 WECEC Budget 2019

A. Parent states remaining funds from the WECEC 2018 Operating Budget were carried forward to 2019 to allow for a Green Speaker Series event in partnership with the City of Windsor. She provides an overview of budgetary items and initiatives for 2019.

8.2 Earth Day

A. Parent reports the Earth Day Event will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Malden Park from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by R. Demarco,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$35 for the procurement of a booth at the Earth Day Event to be held on April 28, 2019 at Malden Park.

Carried.

8.3 Pat on the Back

A. Parent indicates \$2,500 from the 2019 WECEC Operating Budget is slated for the Pat on the Back Awards initiative. She asks for volunteers to be judges for the event. K. Kuker, R. Demarco, R. St. Denis and Keri Banar volunteer.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by K. Kuker,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$2,500 for the 2019 Pat on the Back Awards.

Carried.

Councillor McKenzie suggests all those who entered a submission for the Pat on the Back Awards should be acknowledged. R. Tamr responds generally only the successful entries are invited to the Awards event.

8.4 Update on the City of Windsor Environmental Initiatives

8.4.1 Climate Change Adaptation Plan Update

A. Parent states in terms of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, they are working with other departments and the community to update the draft plan which will be presented to WECEC and to the public for consultation.

8.4.2 Global Covenant of Mayors Carbon Disclosure Project Results

D. Coronado congratulates the City of Windsor for receiving a report card with an overall score of "A-" through the Carbon Disclosure Project.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Holt regarding if the City of Windsor will continue to report annually through the Carbon Disclosure Project, K. Richters responds affirmatively.

8.5 Charles Montgomery

A. Parent provides a brief synopsis of Charles Montgomery, potential guest speaker for the Green Speaker Series in partnership with the City of Windsor as follows:

- Creates transformative experiments, conversations and stories about cities, science, and human well-being.
- Author of the award winning book, Happy City which examines the intersection between urban design and the emerging science of happiness. The book shows the striking ways that our cities can influence our thoughts, feelings and actions, and it offers a vision for urban renovations guided by evidence from around the world.

Moved by R. St. Denis, seconded by M. Schneider,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$5,265 to engage Charles Montgomery as a Green Speaker for an event to be held on June 18, 2019 at Caesar's Windsor.

Carried.

A. Parent adds the event is free and those interested can register their name through the 311 Call Centre.

8.6 WECEC 2019 Priorities

A brainstorming session is held relating to priorities for WECEC in 2019 and the following comments are provided:

- Be actively involved in tree planting in the community
- Water levels (E-Coli) at Sand Point Beach should be checked locally and available for the public.
- Ban of single use plastics.
- Declare a climate emergency by the City.
- Suggestion for more resources for waste diversion.
- Pollution issues, idling traffic – suggests camera controlled smart intersections.
- Educate the public on such matters as waste, compost, idle free zones, trees and shade (increase the number of trees along the riverfront).
- Redesign of recycling bins to make them larger and to add a lid.

9. Communications

Moved by R. Demarco, seconded by J. Zhu,
That the following communications **BE APPROVED**:

- 9.1 Windsor Star: Death of neglected young trees at airport triggers anger.
- 9.2 Windsor Star: Windsor sending objection to roofless storage of pet coke in Detroit.
- 9.3 City of Windsor letter to City of Detroit regarding the storage of Petroleum Coke along the Detroit River.
- 9.4 A letter in response to the March 14, 2019 letter regarding the storage of Petroleum Coke along the Detroit River, refuting these allegations.

Carried.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:45 o'clock p.m.

ACTING CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR