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Windsor, Ontario January 26, 2017

A meeting of the **Windsor Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre, there being present the following members:

Councillor Paul Borrelli, Chair  
Councillor Fred Francis  
Derek Coronado  
Jesse Gardner Costa  
Debby Grant  
Mike Nelson  
Dr. Edwin Tam  
Radwan Tamr

**Regrets received from:**

Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Joe Bachetti, Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Joe Passa

**Guests in attendance:**

Taylor Dupont  
David Hanna  
Nancy Pancheshan  
Rachel Whiteman

**Also present are the following resource personnel:**

Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:35 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**

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,  
That Rule 3.3 (c) of the Procedure By-law 98—2011 be waived to add the following additions to the Agenda:

- 7.2** Letter from the Canadian Herpetological Society dated November 4, 2016 sent to Mayor Dilkens and City Council, City of Windsor and to Mayor Antaya, Town of LaSalle regarding the Excessive Road kill of Endangered Snakes in Windsor.
- 8.2** ERCA 2016 Annual Report – Presentation by Mike Nelson  
Carried.

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

None disclosed.

**4. MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee of its meeting held November 24, 2016 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

**5. BUSINESS**

**5.1 Green Speaker Series – Invasive Species Roundtable**

A. Parent reports approximately 50 people attended the Invasive Phragmites roundtable held on December 14, 2016 at the Essex County Civic Centre.

**5.2 WECEC Giveaways and Remaining Funds**

A. Parent states 100 travel coffee mugs, 100 water bottles and native plant seeds were purchased with the surplus 2016 WECEC operating budget funds.

## 6. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Parent provides the highlights of the WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – January 2017 as follows:

- In terms of the Urban Forest Management Plan, the City Forester will present to WECEC during the development of the Plan.
- The City Forester is currently undertaking an inventory of the trees in the City of Windsor thus the process for the Urban Forest Management Plan will not commence until 2018.
- Potential Green Speakers for 2017 include the following:
  - Water Brothers
  - John Hartig – Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
  - Alice Grgicak-Mannion – Researcher and Professor at GLIER
- On November 5, 2016, the federal government published a proposed regulation in the Canadian Gazette, entitled “Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations, to ban the manufacture or import of most toiletries that contain microbeads on or after January 1, 2018”.

J. Gardner Costa suggests hosting a Green Speaker contest whereby participants speak on various environmental topics and a winner is chosen to receive WECEC funding to further their research.

Dr. Tam puts forth a suggestion for Green Speakers that would include 20 PhD and/or Master's students to speak for 5 minutes on a particular subject much like a TED Talk.

Moved by Dr. Tam, seconded by Councillor Francis,  
That the WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – January 2017 provided by the Environment and Sustainability Coordinator **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

## 7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### 7.1 Air

D. Coronado refers to *Communication 9.2* – “Political leaders request Windsor-Detroit study of air pollution impact on health”. He states the International Joint Commission will release an air quality report within a few months which will address “health concerns in the four-city area of Detroit, Windsor, Sarnia and Port Huron.”

D. Coronado also refers to *Communication 9.3* – “IJC Draft Report for Public Comment Assesses Governments' Progress to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes”. It is noted in its draft Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report under the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; the International Joint Commission commends

Canada and the United States for their exemplary binational commitment and dedicated effort to meet several of the Agreement's goals. Comments on the IJC's TAP report as well as on the two countries' progress report are welcome until April 15, 2017.

Moved by J. Gardner Costa, seconded by Councillor Francis,  
That the verbal update provided by D. Coronado, Air Subcommittee **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

## **7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues**

J. Gardner Costa, President, Essex County Field Naturalists' Club reports in terms of Ojibway Shores, a biological inventory was undertaken on the Windsor Port Authority property.

J. Gardner Costa reports at the recent Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee, he requested City Council consider ecopassages and seasonal closure of Matchette for species at risk.

Letters from the Canadian Herpetological Society dated November 4, 2016 regarding "Excessive roadkill of endangered snakes in Windsor" sent to Mayor Dilkens and members of Windsor City Council and to Mayor Antaya, Town of LaSalle are distributed and **attached** as Appendix "A".

Councillor Francis indicates a report pertaining to "ecopassage" on Matchette Road has been referred to the 2018 Capital budget deliberations. He adds the process for the Environmental Assessment and closure of Matchette Road will be discussed at a future Council meeting. He will request maps as a visual aid at that Council meeting.

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by R. Tamr,

**WHEREAS** the Ojibway Prairie Complex is our most iconic green space in the city, and one of the most biodiverse areas in all of Canada as well as a hotspot for Species At Risk; and

**WHEREAS** despite the importance of the area and excellent stewardship by the City and its employees, the Complex is still under threat from roadways as a result of habitat fragmentation and road mortality; and

**WHEREAS** evidenced by the report in 2016 by local expert Jonathan Choquette of a one-day kill tally of 91 dead snakes around the Ojibway Complex and LaSalle woodlot;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider initiating an environmental assessment to explore solutions to species crossings on Matchette Road,

And further, that City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider approving a pilot project to test the effectiveness of a seasonal road closure of Matchette Road between

Titcombe Road and Sprucewood Road in May and June and in September and October of 2017 to coincide with turtle nesting and snake migration periods.

Carried.

Councillor Francis voting nay.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1 Update on City of Windsor Environmental Initiatives

A. Parent advises the City's Draft Community Energy Plan will be reviewed by the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee at its meeting to be held on March 22, 2017. It will be available for public comment for a period of 45 days, and WECEC's comments on the plan will be considered at the next meeting.

A. Parent states an update to the Environmental Master Plan will be undertaken in 2017. M. Nelson requests that a link to the updated Environmental Master Plan be added to the WECEC website.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by M. Nelson,  
That the verbal update provided by the Environment and Sustainability Coordinator regarding the City of Windsor Environmental Initiatives **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

### 8.2 Update on Essex County Environmental Initiatives

M. Nelson provides an overview of the document entitled "Update on Essex County Environmental Initiatives" as follows:

- ERCA is inviting input on future plans for the Holiday Beach Conservation area. An Open House is scheduled to review the draft master plan for this globally significant Important Bird Area and daytrip destination for thousands of visitors.
- Environmental Registry Notices which include – A regulation establishing a moratorium on the issuance of new or increasing permits to take water for water bottling; the province is proposing new requirements for bottled water permit renewals; five year review or progress for twenty-seven species at risk.
- Upcoming events include:
  - Spring Tree Planting Program
  - Sturgeon Creek wetland rehabilitation
  - Owl Prowl – February 2, 2017 at Holiday Beach
  - Presentation on the Reptiles and Amphibians of Ontario – February 26, 2017 at the Ojibway Nature Centre
  - Tree ID and Appreciation Walk – March 12, 2017, Ojibway Nature Centre

M. Nelson on behalf of ERCA provides an informative presentation on the Essex Region Conservation Authority 2016 Annual Report. The ERCA 2016 Annual Report is **attached** as Appendix "B".

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by M. Nelson,  
That the Update on Essex County Environmental Initiatives and the ERCA 2016 Annual Report provided by M. Nelson **BE RECEIVED**.  
Carried.

### **8.3 2017 Goals and Initiatives**

Councillor Francis advises 2017 will mark the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of the City of Windsor and Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and he suggests the involvement of WECEC in these celebrations, i.e. Earth Day.

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS**

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by D. Grant,

That the following Communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- 9.1 EBR posting regarding permits for bottled water
- 9.2 Political leaders request Windsor-Detroit study of air pollution impact on health.
- 9.3 EBR posting regarding Rosti Group ESA permit in LaSalle.
- 9.4 EBR posting on developing a renewable fuel standard for gasoline.
- 9.5 Federal Government releases the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change
- 9.6 IJC Draft Report for Public Comment Assesses Governments' Progress to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes

Carried.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:55 o'clock p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

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COMMITTEE COORDINATOR



**AGENDA**  
**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**Meeting at 5:30p.m at the Ojibway Nature Centre**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – ***emailed separately.***

5. **BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Green Speaker Series – Invasive Species Roundtable
- 5.2 WECEC giveaways and remaining funds

6. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

- 6.1 WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – ***attached.***

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 7.1 Air
- 7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Update on City of Windsor environmental initiatives
- 8.2 Update on Essex County environmental initiatives – ***attached.***  
***Discussion to determine the purpose of this report and what it should contain.***
- 8.3 2017 goals and objectives

9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

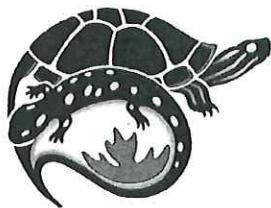
- 9.1 EBR posting regarding permits for bottled water – ***attached.***
- 9.2 Political leaders request Windsor-Detroit study of air pollution impact on health, The Windsor Star Dec 2 2016 – ***attached.***
- 9.3 EBR posting regarding Rosti Group ESA permit in LaSalle – ***attached.***
- 9.4 EBR posting on developing a renewable fuel standard for gasoline – ***attached.***
- 9.5 Federal Government releases the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change – ***attached***
- 9.6 IJC Draft Report for Public Comment Assesses Governments' Progress to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes – ***attached.***

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is March 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**





Canadian Herpetological Society  
Soci t  d'Herp tologie du Canada

November 4, 2016

Re: Excessive roadkill of endangered snakes in Windsor

Dear Mayor Dilkens and City Council of the City of Windsor,

The Canadian Herpetological Society recognizes the work the City of Windsor has done to protect endangered species. Managing a major urban centre with so many species at risk is a daunting task. The City's actions to date, such as the acquisition of the Spring Garden Natural Area, the operation of Ojibway Nature Centre, and the inclusion of provisions to protect biodiversity in the Official Plan, demonstrate an ongoing commitment to conservation. And just this year, the Ojibway Prairie Complex and Greater Park Ecosystem was designated an Important Amphibian and Reptile Area, one of only 11 such sites in Canada<sup>1</sup>.

Recently a major roadkill event for snakes around the Ojibway Prairie Complex was reported in the media<sup>2</sup>. Such high levels of snake roadkill are very discouraging. According to the CBC and discussions with the snake researcher featured in this article, over 30 Butler's Gartersnakes and more than 25 Eastern Foxsnakes were killed on roads in this area in the month of October alone. The level of mortality found this fall is extremely high and potentially poses a significant risk to the survival of these endangered<sup>3</sup> species locally. While some mortality is normal in any population, additional mortality (e.g. from roadkill), particularly if it is ongoing, can lead to population declines or extinction. The Ojibway Prairie is known to have one of the highest rates of snake roadkill in Ontario<sup>4</sup>, so we are confident that the recent die-off was not a one-time event, but an alarming reminder of an ongoing problem.

The threat of road mortality to Butler's Gartersnakes and Eastern Foxsnakes in the Ojibway area is an urgent conservation priority in Canada. Both species are legally protected in Ontario from being killed, harmed or harassed. Allowing the ongoing roadkill of endangered species jeopardizes the resources the City has already committed to conservation and species at risk protection.

<sup>1</sup> [cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ojibway-park-designation-1.3673710](http://cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ojibway-park-designation-1.3673710)

<sup>2</sup> [cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/91-snakes-killed-roads-1.3794299](http://cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/91-snakes-killed-roads-1.3794299)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/species-risk-ontario-list>

<sup>4</sup> <http://canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/1804>

The Canadian Herpetological Society strongly encourages the City of Windsor to work with conservation partners (such as Wildlife Preservation Canada and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club) to implement effective methods to reduce roadkill around Ojibway. A combination of mitigation methods such as traffic calming, temporary or permanent road closures, exclusion fencing, ecopassages can reduce roadkill. Some of these actions are relatively inexpensive and can be implemented almost immediately, providing tangible benefits to endangered species. By taking action now, the City of Windsor can continue to demonstrate its leadership and commitment to the protection of endangered species. We look forward to seeing solutions implemented on the ground in the near future.

Sincerely,



David Seburn

Chair, Conservation Committee

Canadian Herpetological Society

#### **About the Canadian Herpetological Society**

The Canadian Herpetological Society (CHS) is a registered Canadian charity that advances reptile and amphibian research and conservation in Canada. CHS is made up of researchers, conservation practitioners, naturalists, educators, and other individuals with an interest in Canada's reptiles and amphibians. For more information about the CHS, please visit <http://www.canadianherpetology.ca>



Canadian Herpetological Society  
Soci t  d'Herp tologie du Canada



Canadian Herpetological Society  
Société d'Herpétologie du Canada

November 21, 2016

Re: Excessive roadkill of endangered snakes in LaSalle

Dear Mayor Antaya,

The Canadian Herpetological Society recognizes the work the Town of LaSalle has done to protect endangered species. Managing a growing community with so many species at risk is a daunting task. The Town's actions to date, such as the acquisition and ongoing management of the LaSalle Woods Environmentally Significant Area, and the inclusion of provisions to protect biodiversity in the Official Plan, demonstrate an ongoing commitment to conservation. And just this year, the Town of LaSalle was awarded a Carolinian Canada Conservation Award for its efforts to protect one of the most important habitats for endangered reptiles in the region. Congratulations!

Recently a major roadkill event for snakes around the Ojibway Prairie Complex and Greater Park Ecosystem<sup>1</sup> (which includes portions of LaSalle) was reported in the media<sup>2</sup>. Such high levels of snake roadkill are very discouraging. According to the CBC and discussions with the snake researcher featured in this article, over 30 Butler's Gartersnakes and more than 25 Eastern Foxsnakes were killed on roads in this area in the month of October alone. The level of mortality found this fall is extremely high and potentially poses a significant risk to the survival of these endangered<sup>3</sup> species locally. While some mortality is normal in any population, additional mortality (e.g. from roadkill), particularly if it is ongoing, can lead to population declines or extinction. The Ojibway Prairie is known to have one of the highest rates of snake roadkill in Ontario<sup>4</sup>, so we are confident that the recent die-off was not a one-time event, but an alarming reminder of an ongoing problem.

Addressing the threat of road mortality to Butler's Gartersnakes and Eastern Foxsnakes in the Ojibway area is an urgent conservation priority in Canada. Both species and their habitats are legally protected under the Ontario Endangered Species Act. As such both species are protected from being killed, harmed, or harassed. Allowing the ongoing roadkill of endangered species undermines the other efforts and resources already committed to the conservation of these species at risk.

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<sup>1</sup> [cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ojibway-park-designation-1.3673710](http://cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ojibway-park-designation-1.3673710)

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<sup>4</sup> <http://canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/1804>

The Canadian Herpetological Society strongly encourages the Town of LaSalle to work with conservation partners (such as Wildlife Preservation Canada and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club) to implement effective methods to reduce roadkill in the area. A combination of mitigation methods such as traffic calming, temporary road closures during peak snake movement periods in spring or fall, permanent road closures, exclusion fencing, and/or ecopassages can reduce roadkill. Some of these actions are relatively inexpensive and can be implemented almost immediately, providing tangible benefits to endangered species. By taking action now, the Town of LaSalle can continue to demonstrate its leadership and commitment to the protection of endangered species. We look forward to seeing solutions implemented on the ground in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Seburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Seburn

Chair, Conservation Committee

Canadian Herpetological Society

**About the Canadian Herpetological Society**

The Canadian Herpetological Society (CHS) is a registered Canadian charity that advances reptile and amphibian research and conservation in Canada. CHS is made up of researchers, conservation practitioners, naturalists, educators, and other individuals with an interest in Canada's reptiles and amphibians. For more information about the CHS, please visit <http://www.canadianherpetology.ca>