

KK/
Windsor, Ontario January 9, 2014

A meeting of the **Windsor Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, there being present the following members:

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Eileen Chen (non-voting)
Pauline Cheslock
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Theresa Czerwinski
Roger Dzugan
Jesse Gardner Costa
Paul Henshaw
John Miller (arrives at 5:42 p.m.)
Mike Nelson
Lindita Prindi
Tamara Stomp
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:43 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Councillor Hilary Payne

Guests in attendance:

Ian Naisbitt, Chair, Little River Enhancement Group
Kathryn Arthur, Management Biologist, ERCA
Caroline Biribauer, Outreach Coordinator, ERCA

Also present are the following resource personnel:

James Bryant, County Engineering Department
Averil Parent, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:32 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. **ADDITION TO THE AGENDA**

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

- 9.2 Discussion regarding paperless minutes and agendas.
Carried.

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

None disclosed.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by P. Cheslock,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held December 5, 2013 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 **Ian Naisbitt, Chair, Little River Enhancement Group Phase Three – Connecting the Windsor Airport Swamps Spring 2014**

Ian Naisbitt, Chair, Little River Enhancement Group is present. The ERCA “Windsor Airport Swamp Restoration (2014) map” is distributed and **attached** as Appendix “A”. The “Little River Enhancement Group (Lil’ Reg) Delegation to WECEC” document is distributed and **attached** as Appendix “B”.

As outlined in the “Lil’ Reg” document, the following history of the organization is as follows:

- Since 1989, the Group has participated in 35 river cleanup events.
- As of 1990, the Group has participated in 82 planting events – in excess of 29,000 trees have been planted.
- The Group adopted the Little River Watershed in 1991. (Windsor International Airport is located in the Little River Watershed).
- The Group has a keen interest in the three Provincially Significant Wetlands on the airport lands.
- Phase 1 – trees and shrubs were planted on airport on Earth Day 1997
- Phase 2 – the process of connecting the 3 swamps began on June 4, 2013
- Phase 3 – swamp wetland restoration project – YQG

- Goals in Phase 3 include: continue ecological connection of fragmented Provincially Significant Wetland Swamps at Windsor International Airport
- Develop and test a green infrastructure concept for storm water retention utilizing a continuous tree and shrub covered swamp while mitigating for wildlife attraction from large waterfowl and gull species.
- Project elements include: identify boundaries for the next phase of planting (approximately 2 to 3 hectares/5 to 7.5 acres);
- Engineer earthworks to create vernal pools within the next phase of planting, with the pools linking to drainage for the first 3-4 years until vegetation becomes established;
- Undertake earthworks to create vernal pools and temporary water relief;
- Develop a species list of hydrophilic Carolinian zone trees and shrubs;
- Plant species, both upland and wetland to the site as the water characteristics dictate;
- Monitor the site for wildlife attraction and planting success.

D. Coronado reports he toured the 2013 planting area and commends Mr. Naisbitt, ERCA and the volunteers for the number of trees that were planted.

Kathryn Arthur, Management Biologist, ERCA and Caroline Biribauer, Outreach Coordinator, ERCA advises the trees will be ordered by March 2014 and the staff to plant the trees will be hired in April/May 2014. It is noted 5,000-6,000 seedlings will be planted. C. Biribauer states students from David Suzuki School will be invited to plant the seedlings.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by J. Miller,
That City Council and the YQG Board of Directors **BE REQUESTED** to endorse Phase 3 (Swamp Wetland Restoration Project on the YQG Airport lands) submitted by the Little River Enhancement Group.
Carried.

The Chair thanks Ian Naisbitt for his presentation.

5.2 Averil Parent, City of Windsor Environmental Coordinator – 2013 Report on the State of our Environment

The highlights of the 2013 Report On the State of the Environment are as follows:

- As part of the City of Windsor's Environmental Master Plan (EMP) Implementation, a number of environmental indicators are tracked over time which include –
 - Improve Our Air & Water Quality
 - Create Healthy Communities
 - Green Windsor
 - Use Resources Efficiently
 - Promote Awareness

- A report on the State of the Environment is to be completed every four to five years as a way to report on the environmental indicators being tracked.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Halberstadt regarding the increased use of pesticides, A. Parent responds the increased use of pesticides is weather related and is also dependent on the number of parks.

P. Henshaw indicates the “brownfields” (*abandoned, idled or underused properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by a real or perceived environmental contamination as a result of historical industrial or commercial land use practices*) have increased over time since 2005. A. Parent states a Brownfields Community Improvement Plan was undertaken in 2010 and notes the Planning Department is actively working to increase brownfield conversion.

D. Coronado expresses concern the State of the Environment Report was not vetted by WECEC before proceeding to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee.

The Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee at its meeting held November 20, 2013 approved the following motion:

*Moved by Councillor Payne, seconded by Councillor Halberstadt,
THAT the report authored by the Environmental Coordinator dated October 29, 2013 entitled “Report on the State of our Environment 2013” **BE RECEIVED** for information, and further*

***THAT** an additional report **BE PROVIDED** with possible general next steps that could be taken to reverse negative environmental results as listed in the 2013 Report on the State of Our Environment, including identifying costs and investment to date.*

Carried.

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by R. Dzugan,
That the City of Windsor’s **ROSE: Report On the State of our Environment** dated 2013 **BE RECEIVED**, and further, that the “Review of the Report On The State Of the Environment 2013 submitted by the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee – Air Subcommittee **BE PROVIDED** at the February 6, 2014 meeting.

Carried.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 **Tree By-law Update**

No report.

6.2 Invitation to Dr. Saad Jasim, Director, International Joint Commission to discuss Algae Bloom Toxins

A. Parent indicates WECEC has already undertaken the production of a video relating to algae blooms. It is noted Dr. Jasim is no longer the Director of the International Joint Commission.

6.3 Green Speaker Series

R. Dzugen announces Chris Hadfield, former Astronaut will be coming to Windsor on June 5, 2014. He notes the cost to retain Mr. Hadfield as a Green Speaker is approximately \$30,000.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair regarding how Mr. Hadfield as a Green Speaker relates to the environment, T. Stomp responds the air quality of the planet is an environmental theme and indicates Mr. Hadfield is a very engaging speaker.

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by T. Stomp,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 to assist in the cost for Chris Hadfield, former Astronaut to participate in the Green Speaker Series on June 5, 2014 in Windsor, Ontario at a venue to be determined.

Carried.

P. Henshaw suggests Robert Krausz, PhD Environmental Policy and Planning be considered for the 2014 Green Speaker Series. The resume of Dr. Krausz is distributed and attached as Appendix "C".

C. Wright, Co-Chair suggests a speaker be retained to discuss nuclear waste disposal sites.

7. COORDINATORS REPORT

A. Parent states a "draft" Smog Action Plan for the City of Windsor has been completed. She notes a meeting was held with representatives from the Parks Department and indicates future meetings will be convened with the Operations Department, Human Resources and also Local 82.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Air

No report.

8.2 Transportation

No report.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

J. Gardner Costa reports a Strategic Planning meeting was recently held with the Detroit River Canadian Clean-up regarding the Ojibway Shores property. He states a petition is being circulated regarding the Endangered Species Act of Ontario and the 200 species at risk.

8.4 Water Quality

M. Nelson advises a new member will be appointed to the Subcommittee, as Chitra Gowda is no longer an employee of ERCA.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 WECEC Year-End Report 2013

M. Nelson states the WECEC Year End Report 2013 provides approvals and endorsements of WECEC along with a very good summary of accomplishments.

9.2 Paperless Agenda/Minutes

WECEC at its meeting held October 7, 2010 adopted the following motion:

Moved by S. Sawyer-Beaulieu, seconded by D. Clevett,
“That the minutes and agendas of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee BE SENT in an electronic format.”

It is generally agreed the practice to send minutes/agendas electronically will continue, and further that hard copies of the agenda will be provided at the monthly meetings. If members do not require hard copies, they are requested to contact the Committee Coordinator.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

- 10.1** The research article published in PLOS One dated December 11, 2013 entitled “Artificial sweeteners in a large Canadian river reflect human consumption in the watershed” is received for information.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2014 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 7:30 o’clock p.m.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator