

Windsor, Ontario November 7, 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:

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Frank Butler (alternate)
Pauline Cheslock
Derek Coronado
Jesse Costa Gardner
Roger Dzugan (alternate)
Evan Freeman-Gibb
John Miller
Mike Nelson
Lindita Prendi
Phil Roberts (alternate)
Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu (alternate)
Tamara Stomp
Radwan Tamr (arrives at 5:50 p.m.)

Regrets received from:

Councillor Hilary Payne (meeting conflict)
Mark Bartlett
Paul Henshaw

Delegations in attendance:

Steve Green, regarding Item 5.0
Jonathon Choquette, regarding Item 9.1
Gudrin Beggs, regarding Item 9.1
Peter Vreman, regarding Item 9.1

Also present are the following resource personnel:

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-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**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT**

None disclosed.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by C. Wright, seconded by R. Dzugan,
That the minutes of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held October 3, 2013 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5. **PRESENTATION**

Steve Green is present to request the removal of certain varieties of Milkweed from Ontario's Noxious Weed Act. His presentation entitled "Milkweed in Urban Areas" is **attached** as Appendix "A" and the highlights are as follows:

- Milkweed flowers produce nectar that benefits the butterfly species.
- Milkweed is the host plant for the monarch butterfly. Without milkweed, the larva would not be able to develop into a butterfly.
- Experts state the number of monarch butterflies is at a all-time low after the milkweed supply "crashed" in the U.S. corn belt.
- Mr. Green is requesting the development of Nectar Corridors in Windsor and Essex County for the monarchs (and other butterflies and bees) by community groups and like minded organizations.
- He suggests OMAFRA be lobbied to change the Noxious Weed Act so that milkweed is allowed in all areas except around livestock.

T. Stomp states historically, "farmers rule". She notes there is no such thing as a noxious weed as dandelions may the cure for cancer. She agrees milkweed should be in the urban corridor.

S. Green indicates he was advised by By-law Enforcement that milkweeds cannot be planted in areas where agriculture is impacted.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair suggests a subcommittee be established as there is some confusion relating to the Noxious Weed Act.

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by F. Butler,
That a subcommittee consisting of M. Nelson, S. Green and P. Roberts **BE REQUESTED** to meet with By-law Enforcement regarding the Noxious Weeds Act and how it pertains to milkweeds.
Carried.

Clerk's Note: An e-mail from A. Parent dated November 26, 2013 to the Manager of By-law Enforcement regarding milkweeds is attached as Appendix "B". The email response from the Manager of By-law Enforcement answered the question of Steve Green and therefore the subcommittee no longer needs to be formed.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 **LaSalle Woodlot Development**

Jonathon Choquette, Project Coordinator, is present to provide information relating to the Ojibway Massasauga Recovery Project. The salient points of his presentation (attached as Appendix "C") are as follows:

- Ojibway population of Massasauga is extremely important to national, provincial and local biodiversity conservation.
- Long term goal is to undertake recovery actions to reduce the extinction risk of the Ojibway population.
- Restoration of habitat connectivity, mitigate threats, population augmentation, and to maintain remaining sub-population.
- 100 ha target for LaSalle Woodlot ESA is feasible
- "It is recommended that following a thorough biological inventory of the LaSalle Woodlot ESA that a revised ESA boundary is developed and Natural Environment zoning be applied to appropriate parcels" (Town of LaSalle and ERCA 2011)

M. Nelson advises he met with the developer and the Town of LaSalle and suggests Mr. Choquette's presentation be received as a communication piece.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair introduces Gudrin Beggs, Amico Design Build and notes she is available for questions. She indicates an additional development of 83 residential lots abutting the woodlots is part of the design.

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by C. Wright,

That the letter from Jonathon Choquette, Project Coordinator dated October 8, 2013 regarding the Ojibway Massasauga Recovery Project BE RECEIVED and further, that updates be provided as the project goes forward.

THE MOTION IS PUT AND IS LOST.

F. Butler strongly expresses concern that Gudrin Beggs, Amico appeared at this meeting without providing documentation prior to the meeting.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by F. Butler,

That in reviewing development proposals adjacent to the LaSalle Woodlot ESA, that City Council and County Council **BE REQUESTED** to support projects which adhere to the following principles:

1. To respect the LaSalle Woodlot ESA boundary as displayed in the Town of LaSalle Official Plan and LaSalle Woodlot ESA Management Plan.
2. To respect Massasauga critical habitat as displayed in the Recovery Strategy for the Massasauga in Canada.
3. To implement edge treatments which discourage human snake conflict (i.e. snake fencing) between the LaSalle Woodlot ESA and adjacent developments.

Carried.

9.2 Eileen Chen non-member Application to WECEC

Moved by P. Cheslock, seconded by J. Miller,

That Eileen Chen **BE INVITED** to attend the meetings of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee as a non-voting member.

Carried.

7. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A. Parent reports the Green Speaker Series which included Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager, Detroit International Wildlife Refuge and Dr. Richard Wyma, General Manager, Essex Region Conservation Authority held on October 22, 2013 was very successful.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Air

The Air Subcommittee report is distributed and attached as Appendix "D". D. Coronado provides an overview of his report as follows:

- In October, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) announced it had classified outdoor air pollution and particulate matter as carcinogenic to

- humans. This is the first time experts have classified outdoor air pollution as a cause of cancer.
- In October, the province announced the end of burning coal at the Lambton Generating Station, leaving Nanticoke Generating Station as the last coal burning facility in Southern Ontario (scheduled to cease coal burning operations by the end of 2013).

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair states he received a call from a reporter at the Windsor Star regarding various vehicles, i.e. ambulances, buses and if they are required to abide by the Anti-Idling By-law.

D. Coronado explains there are 14 exemptions in the City of Windsor's Anti-Idling By-law and he notes the By-law is outdated.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair requests information be provided for the December 5, 2013 meeting regarding the province-wide petition relating to anti-idling.

8.2 Transportation

F. Butler explains on September 18, 2013, a 200 lbs. nitrogen tank was moved from the main campus of the University of Windsor across Wyandotte Street East to the campus on the south side of Wyandotte. He notes since the tank was moved by hand dolly across city streets, it is a matter for Fire and Rescue Services.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by C. Wright,
That Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair **BE DIRECTED** to contact the Fire Chief, Fire and Rescue Services regarding the logistics relating to the nitrogen tank transportation at the University of Windsor on September 18, 2013.
Carried.

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

J. Costa Gardner reports a Wetlands Strategy meeting was recently held regarding the progress of the natural areas in the Parkway Projects. He notes the ratio is 8 to 1 as it pertains to natural areas to the Parkway lands. Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair suggests a tour of the DRIC lands be undertaken in the spring 2014.

R. Tamr leaves the meeting at 7:20 o'clock p.m.

As it relates to the Ojibway Shores, J. Costa Gardner states the Field Naturalists along with a small group of experts will be undertaking a three season biological inventory.

8.4 Water Quality

A. Parent states the Water Quality Subcommittee submitted comments through the WECEC Co-Chairs to the International Joint Commission regarding their draft Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority Report.

In terms of phosphorous education, the Subcommittee discussed potential campaign measures to educate the public on the labeling of phosphorous content.

8.5 Tree By-law

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair advises a meeting regarding the Private Tree By-law was held with the City Forester, ERCA, A. Parent and B. Wansbrough. A review was undertaken of the tree by-laws of several municipalities and strengths and weaknesses were gleaned.

Moved by T. Stomp, seconded by P. Cheslock,
That the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee Subcommittee reports
BE RECEIVED.
Carried.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

- 10.1 The Windsor Star article included “The Incredible Story of Humbug Marsh” dated October 18, 2013 is received for information.
- 10.2 The Ministry of Natural Resources Press Release entitled “Helping Communities Restore Fish and Wildlife Habitats” dated October 21, 2013 is received for information.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on December 5, 2013 at 5:30 o’clock p.m. at the Lou Romano Plant.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:28 o’clock p.m.

Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair

Committee Coordinator