



THE CITY OF WINDSOR

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

VALERIE CRITCHLEY
CITY CLERK

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO. _____



July 3, 2012

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

This is to advise that the next meeting of the Windsor and Essex County Environment Committee is scheduled as follows:

**Thursday, July 5, 2012
5:30 o'clock p.m.
Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant
4155 Ojibway Parkway**

The attached agenda will be considered. Please notify the undersigned at 519-255-6222, ext. 6430, if you are unable to attend.

Yours very truly,

Karen Kadour
Committee Coordinator (A)



AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, July 5th, 2012
Meeting at 5:30p.m.
At LOU ROMANO WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held June 7th, 2012 – *emailed separately.*

5. **PRESENTATION**

Bill Roesel, Manager, Forestry & Horticulture, City of Windsor – One Million Trees update as well as Walkerville tree education project.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- 6.1 Renewable Energy Media Campaign – *attached.*
- 6.2 Pat on the Back Awards

7. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – *attached.*

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 8.1 Air
- 8.2 Transportation
- 8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands – *attached.*
- 8.4 Water Quality

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 9.2 Municipal Park Closures

10. **COMMUNICATIONS**

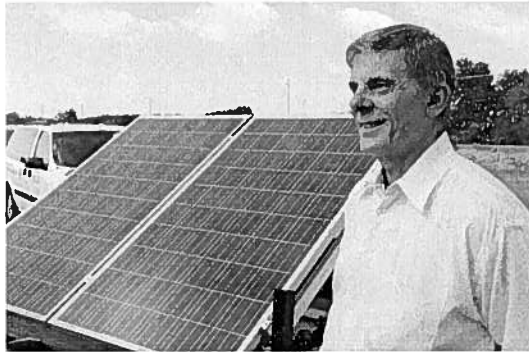
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be voted on as the Committee usually takes the month of August off.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Windsor-Essex looking to go “greener”

By Joel Boyce, Windsor This Week
Saturday, June 23, 2012



Coun. Alan Halberstadt, co-chair on the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee, stands by a solar panel at the Lakeshore Film Studio Friday, June 22. The committee is launching a campaign to increase awareness and educate local residents about solar energy.

The Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee launched a campaign to increase environmental awareness with the benefits of solar energy and technologies Friday, June 22.

They did so 24 hours after the first day of summer.

The Public Education Campaign will showcase how solar energy and technologies in the Windsor-Essex region can provide sustainable energy resources for the betterment to the environment.

Last year, the City of Windsor learned the highest environmental concern to local residents was air pollution after receiving results to the Environmental Attitudes Survey.

“This is all about raising awareness,” said the committee co-chair Coun. Alan Halberstadt. “Ontario is behind. Germany has been involved with renewable energy for over a decade and we’ve just started to get in it. In Germany, for the past 10 years, they’ve gone from 6.7 per cent of electricity coming from renewable energy to 20.1 per cent. We need to catch up.”

Halberstadt also talked about the jobs that will be available in the renewable energy sector. The committee will be launching a campaign to advertise and educate residents about solar energy. And technologies. Spending more than \$10,000, they hope people in the community will see the impact it can have on the economy – especially the environment.

The committee wants the public to be aware and to investigate the benefits of solar energy. They want people to know there is a profit in pursuing this method of energy – it’s not as expensive or undependable that many people think. The profit would be helping the environment

According to the committee, the Windsor-Essex area’s geographic location may be one of the most desirable locations for solar energy installations in Canada.

“The energy generated from solar power is carbon free, making it a powerful tool to help Canada reduce its emissions, mitigate climate change and meet the growing need for energy efficient and carbon neutral buildings,” said Charlie Wright, deputy mayor of Leamington and the committee co-chair.

Green Sun Rising Inc., Windsor’s longest operating solar company Green Sun Rising Inc., is sponsoring the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee’s campaign for solar energy and solar technology. They have been finding new ways to help save the planet’s natural resources in a cost efficient way.

They showcased a solar carport, protecting a vehicle against rain, snow and hail, as well producing electricity at the same time. This also included their solar bikeport design. With their company backing the committee, they can increase environmental awareness and education of the benefits of solar energy and technologies in the Windsor-Essex County.



– JUNE 2012 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

Due to a previous agreement between the City of Windsor and the Windsor Port Authority, the City is required to service the Port Authority property (Ojibway Shores) through the city owned property. With this realisation, it would be unreasonable for the City to rezone Ojibway Shores as natural heritage. Currently, the announcement of the new bridge has stalled any future development on the property, as well as any talk of another land swap with the city. The committee will prepare to comment on the Environmental Assessment for the new bridge once it is released.

A draft report prepared by city administration regarding the Natural Heritage/Open Space designation around the airport woodlots has been circulated. The area in between the woodlots has the potential to be used as a green infrastructure storm water management feature. A meeting to discuss this possibility will be held on Wednesday July 4th with representation from city and airport administration, ERCA and the PSW Subcommittee. A verbal update will be provided at the July WECEC meeting.

2. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

Our campaign advertisements and editorial content ran in the County papers, Windsor Star Online as well as Windsor This Week during the weeks of June 11th and June 18th. Additional information about the campaign was available on our webpage, and a media conference was held on Friday, June 22nd at the Lakeshore Studio. Many media outlets attended the press conference including but not limited to, the Windsor Star, CBC, AM 800, Blackburn News and Windsor this Week. In addition, campaign members talked about the benefits of solar energy on AM 800's Experts on Call show on Saturday June 23rd. This first chapter in our Renewable Energy Media Campaign was successful, and WECEC has about \$1,000 to begin the next part of our campaign to focus on another renewable energy technology.

3. Water Quality Subcommittee

The subcommittee has discussed the potential for an agricultural drain buffer strip pilot project on airport property. Funding opportunities for this project are being considered and applied to by ERCA. There is the potential for partnerships with the University of Windsor or Guelph.

The subcommittee is also interested in producing a PSA video to highlight the causes and potential solutions to algae issues in Lake Erie. In addition, the subcommittee would like to see the third "Green Speakers Series" event centre around water quality and be held in Kingsville during the migration festival October 19th-21st. The group is in the process of securing a speaker.

4. Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium

An email was sent to gauge interest in the 2012 Provincial EAC meeting being held in Windsor in October/November. There is enough interest to move forward and the event planning will likely commence in the early fall.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Pat on the Back Awards

The winners of the Pat on the Back Awards will be announced at the July WECEC meeting. Similar to last year, four \$500 awards will be given out to local sustainability projects. The Pat on the Back Award Ceremony takes place on July 4th, 7-9pm at the Ojibway Nature Centre where the top seven applicants will present their projects to the judging panel. These applicants include Amherstburg Public School, Walkerville Collegiate Institute, Princess Elizabeth Public School, Windsor Islamic Association, St. Joseph Elementary School, Al-Hijra Academy and St. Maria Goretti Elementary School. The judges will deliberate and then present the awards by the end of the evening. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the event free of charge. The ceremony has been promoted to the media as well as on our website and Facebook page.

Provincially Significant Wetland Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes of June 25th, 2012 (Windsor Airport Community Conference Room)

Attendees: Averil Parent, Phil Roberts, Tom Henderson, Dave Munroe, Dan Lebedyk, Thom Hunt

PSW Woodlots at Windsor Airport

A question was raised at the WECEC meeting June 7th on the status of a council question regarding the airport master plan, specifically the Natural Heritage / Open Space land use designation.

A draft report has been prepared by City Administration (Tiffany Pocock) and circulated to other City Departments and ERCA for comment. The general break down of land use identified for the committee is as follows: airport woodlots: 30.4 ha; area of 120 metre buffer: 42.5 ha; and open space: 40.3 ha; for a total of 113.2 ha designated as Natural Heritage / Open Space representing approximately 14% of the total airport property. The open area at 40.3 ha represents approximately 5% of the total airport property.

The land area outside the 120 m buffer (open area) has been conceptualized as potential green infrastructure stormwater management for the airport (wildlife attraction considered). Using this feature to connect or link to the existing woodlots or their buffers was extensively discussed at our meeting. Dan Lebedyk (ERCA) informed the sub-committee that ERCA has serious reservations about the concept of green infrastructure stormwater management and its potential to have ecological function due to concerns with contamination, maintenance of a feature that might now be functioning habitat (potentially of endangered species), engineering the feature, potential negative impact to the existing PSW woodlots, etc.

The committee realizes that this project is conceptual only however, at this point it would seem reasonable that with the amount of land area available outside the proposed buffers, a green infrastructure facility would have some potential to fulfil some or all of the environmental and wildlife mitigation goals for reserving otherwise developable lands.

Action Required: The committee will organize a meeting with ERCA, City and Airport Administration to discuss the realities of this conceptual plan.

Land Use Rezoning for City Owned Property Adjacent to Ojibway Shores Initiative

Due to a previous agreement between the City of Windsor and the Windsor Port Authority, the City is required to service the Port Authority property (Ojibway Shores) through the city owned property. With this realisation, it would be unreasonable for the City to rezone Ojibway Shores as natural heritage.

Two additional strategies have been discussed:

1) A biological assessment of the properties be undertaken - As the Port Authority has indicated to City Council that there are no prospective tenants for the site, it was decided that the assessment is not necessary at this point.

2) Allow City Administration to discuss¹ the possibility of a land swap with the Port Authority to reduce the City's liability for the cost of having to provide services as guaranteed. With the recent Bridge / Plaza announcement with Michigan several new issues have arisen which warrants the City to wait for the outcome of engineering and environmental assessment before pursuing this strategy. Essentially, will service easements be allowed to cross at or within the federal plaza? What mitigations will be required now that the bridge process will go forward?

Action Required: None immediately but the committee will prepare to comment on the EA for the new bridge as is required in the EA process.

Wetland Evaluation Initiative

Deferred.

¹ Essentially Option B of the Report to the Environment & Transportation Standing Committee #15690 ZO/6382 Candidate Natural Heritage Site No.37, which was received and deferred by City Council.

