



Agenda

Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee

held on September 19, 2019

Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

4. MINUTES

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held July 4, 2019 – emailed separately

5. BUSINESS

5.1 WECEC Report No. 103: Temporary road closure at the Ojibway Nature Complex

5.2 Priorities & Subcommittee's discussion – ***attached***

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Air – ***attached***

6.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 WECEC Mandate & Terms of Reference review – ***attached***

7.2 WECEC 2020 Budget Request – ***attached***

7.3 Green Speaker ideas

7.4 Eliquid Invoice – ***attached***

8. COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 The Windsor Star article dated September 9 2019 entitled "City Council again delays decision on road closures to protect at-risk snake species" – ***attached***

8.2 CBC article dated September 10 2019 entitled "Ojibway Park roads won't be closed for fall migration" – ***attached***

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant.

10. ADJOURNMENT

WECEC Priorities Identified at the April 25, 2019 Meeting

- Planting trees in the community (WECEC tree planting?)
- Sandpoint beach
 - Checking water for E.coli levels
 - Sprucing it up
- Single use plastics ban
- Declaring a climate emergency – what have other cities done?
- Strengthen City of Windsor emissions reduction target
- Waste diversion education
- Following the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Public Engagement
- Green development
- Transit electrification
- Camera controlled smart intersections (improve efficiency)
- Shade along riverfront
- Change mentality on biking
- Lids on recycling bins
- Endangered species protection/education around the Ojibway Nature Complex

Next Steps September 19, 2019

1. Further refine and prioritize actions
2. Form subcommittees

AIR SUBCOMMITTEE –SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Climate Change Emergency Declaration:

WHEREAS the most recent report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) has indicated that within less than 12 years, in order to keep the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius and maintain a climate compatible with human civilization, there must be a reduction in carbon emissions of about 45% from 2010 levels, reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS based on current projections of the future impacts of human caused climate change, climate change will adversely impact Windsor-Essex's local economy, damage local infrastructure and property, put a strain on municipal budgets and result in significant economic and health burdens for the constituents of Windsor-Essex, particularly our vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS climate change will jeopardize the health and survival of many local plant and animal species as well as their natural environments and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS Windsor-Essex is already experiencing large and increase climate change impacts including but not limited to overland flooding, heavy rain event flooding, emergence of invasive species, an increased number of high heat days, the rise of vector borne diseases, the re-emergence of blue-green algae and harmful algal blooms in our lakes and rivers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are understood to produce and/or have regulatory jurisdiction over approximately 50% of carbon emissions in Canada; and

WHEREAS the County of Essex and the City of Windsor join the Government of Canada and 444 Canadian municipalities (including Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, and 18 other Ontario municipalities, among them Chatham-Kent, Sudbury, Sarnia, Guelph, and Kingston) that have declared climate emergencies, some of which are also implementing strategic plans in order to help reduce global carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS the City of Windsor, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) are committed to and currently undertaking city and regional climate change planning, encompassing both mitigation and adaptation, in partnership with others; and

WHEREAS this emergency is an opportunity to bring together County, City and Town governments as well as regional stakeholders to work together on climate change planning and implementation with the aim of protecting our region and contributing to greater national and global climate change response; and

WHEREAS implementing climate action and making a transition to a low-carbon economy also represents a significant opportunity to stimulate economic growth, increase job opportunities and develop new technologies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that both the City of Windsor and the County of Essex declare a Climate Emergency in the knowledge that this is an emergency with no foreseeable conclusion which will require robust and permanent changes in how the City and County conduct their business; and further,

That in response to this emergency, the need to reduce overall emissions from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex as well as continue to prepare for Windsor-Essex County's climate future are deemed to be high priorities when considering budget direction and in all decisions of council; and further,

That City and County administrations **BE DIRECTED TO PREPARE REPORTS** for consideration by their respective Councils within 90 days containing recommendations for priority actions items, implementation measures and cost requirements to accelerate and urgently work towards the reduction of emissions and preparing for our climate future.

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) – Terms of Reference and Mandate – July 2015

Introduction/Preface

The purpose of the WECEC is to provide advice on environmental issues to the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities.

Mandate

- WECEC was established as a volunteer advisory committee through resolutions of Windsor City Council and the County of Essex within the meaning of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2005, c.25 (the 'Act')
- WECEC receives referrals to address specific environmental concerns from the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities, as well as,
- WECEC is proactive and will advise on matters identified through its own initiative.
- All recommendations will be approved by City/County Council prior to making any recommendations to a third party and/or private agency.

Review:

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the establishment of the annual work plan. Any changes will be put forward as recommendations to City and County Council for approval.

Composition/Membership

WECEC will be comprised of eleven (11) members of which two (2) members will be from County Council and two (2) members will be from City Council.

Duties and Responsibilities

The scope of WECEC will include activities of primary responsibility for which an annual work plan will be developed, such as:

- developing policies for consideration by the City and County regarding ongoing environmental concerns,
- develop responses related to Federal and Provincial actions in public and private undertakings affecting the ecosystem to be forward to City and County Councils,
- identify and examine issues and new alternatives of an ecological nature that may affect the natural environment of the region and to advise City and County Councils on such matters,
- review and provide advice regarding the environmental implications of studies, plans, proposals and other documents as may be referred to the Committee,
- to advise on and recommend studies that could assist in increasing awareness of environmental concerns; solutions to environmental problems and/or enhance environmental conditions in the region,

- report annually on the state of the regional environment, and provide the report to City and County Council,
- liaise with other organizations, committees, and agencies with similar interest in protecting and preserving the natural environment of Windsor and the County of Essex,
- coordinate partnership funding by collecting funds from organizations, committees and agencies to further collaborative environment projects for Windsor and Essex County,
- participate in other committees where WECEC is required or suggested by the City of Windsor and County of Essex and its area municipalities.

The scope of WECEC may include activities of secondary responsibility that will be conducted in partnership with other organizations, committees and agencies, such as:

- identify and implement community outreach activities which support the growth of environmental awareness and appreciation,
- provide advice on regional environmental resources,
- provide advice on regional environmental data.

Appointment and Term

In Accordance with Section 22.2 of the Procedure By-Law 98-2011, Appointment of members to Committees may be for any duration up to and including the full term of the Council, or until their successors are appointed.

Absenteeism

Any member who is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without expressing regrets will be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.

Agenda and Minutes

In accordance with the City Of Windsor's Procedure By-Law 98-2011, the Committee Chair will review, identify, and prepare agenda items and priorities prior to each meeting. Though the Committee Chair is responsible for conducting meetings and providing direction, they are to ensure a fair and open discussion of agenda items, enabling members to suggest items for the agenda.

Minutes shall be taken of all Committee meetings by a designate of the City Clerk who shall subsequently distribute them as soon as possible to all Committee members.

All matters related to recording and distributing the Minutes shall comply with the City of Windsor Policies governing the recording and distribution of the Minutes of a Committee of City Council.

Rules of Order/Operations of the Committee

Elections and meetings will be conducted in accordance with Bourinot's Rules of Order and the City of Windsor's Procedural By-Law 98-2011.

- In camera discussions will only be held in strict compliance with procedural by-laws.

- WECEC will see to achieve consensus on decisions. Recommendations are “carried” if supported by a majority. Only resolutions as they appear in the adopted minutes may be considered as officially representing the position of WECEC.
- WECEC will advise respective staff of the City of Windsor and County of Essex by resolution on matters that were referred to them.

Reporting Structure/Frequency of Meetings

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) reports to the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee and *Essex County Council*.

Meetings will be held bi-monthly and are open to the public. Additional meetings can be called by the Chair.

Resources to the Committee

- The Committee will have an annual budget comprised of contributions from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex.
- Administrative Support will be assigned through the City of Windsor, Council Services.

Remuneration

Advisory Committee members receive no compensation for their service on the City's Advisory Committees.

Quorum

The Quorum of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is 6 members.

A. Organizational Overview

Description

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) is a group of environmental-related organizations that meet monthly to ensure the ongoing health and stability of our local environment.



Windsor Essex County
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

We protect and enhance the quality of the environment for residents in Windsor and Essex County; provide advice and guidance to City and County Councils on policies and procedures; and provide and support advocacy, community education and outreach programs. WECEC is recognized as a credible and integral agent/component in regional environmental decision-making and community engagement.

B. Budget Detail & Request

City of Windsor Funding

	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget Request	\$ Budget Change Over PY	% Budget Change Over PY
City of Windsor Funding	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%

C. Budget Highlights

2018/2019 Accomplishments

Pat on the Back awards presenting 4 local, grassroots environmental organizations with \$500 each to put towards environmental projects in Windsor Essex.

In partnership with the City of Windsor and other sponsors, WECEC contributed to Green Speaker Charles Montgomery and his presentation entitled *The Happy City: Can We Make Windsor Climate Friendly and Happier at the Same Time?*

WECEC participated in Earth Day where they had a booth and discussed local environmental issues.

WECEC is planning to host one more Green Speaker Series event in the fall of 2019.

2020 Initiatives

WECEC would like to continue their Pat on the Back Awards, presenting 4 local, grassroots environmental organizations with \$500 each to put towards environmental projects in Windsor Essex.

WECEC would like to continue with their Green Speaker Series, hosting 2-3 environmental experts per year to give free public lectures on environmental issues in Windsor Essex.

WECEC would like to continue to participate in Earth Day and other events, have a website as well as conduct other public education campaigns on local environmental issues.

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INVOICE

14196

GST #: 896239019

Issued: 2019-07-16**Windsor Essex County Environment Committee**

Attn: Attention: Accounts Payable
WECEC c/o Averil Parent
4155 Ojibway Parkway
Windsor, Ontario
N9C 4A5, Canada
Phone: 519-523-7111
Fax: 519-253-0464

Notes:

Please send payment to :
3155 Howard Ave., Suite # 209
Windsor, ON N8X 4Y8
Thank you!!

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Item Total
Domain Renewal: Annual fee for Domain Renewal. Regular price is \$75.00 courtesy discount applied -\$50.00 = \$25.00 + Tax	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Subtotal:			\$ 25.00
HST13:			\$ 3.25
INVOICE TOTAL:			\$ 28.25
Payments and/or Adjustments:			\$ 0.00
BALANCE DUE:			\$ 28.25

After 30 days from the invoice issued date, eliquidMEDIA will apply 2% interest compounded monthly until full balance of past due invoices has been paid.

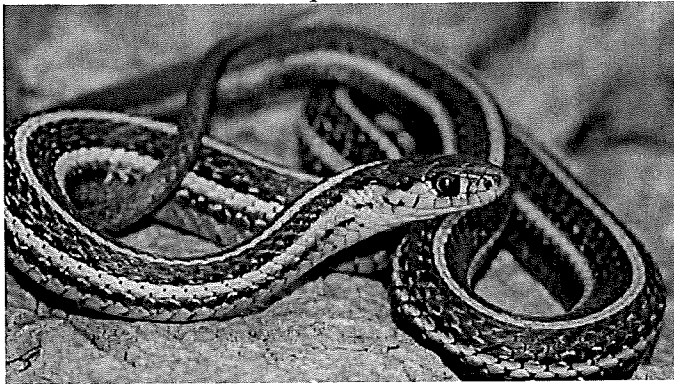


Ojibway Park roads won't be closed for fall migration

Roads around Ojibway Park won't close this fall to protect migratory species at risk. The request from area supporters was deferred for a second time, to allow administration to create a plan and make a decision in 2020.

'It is impossible to close Malden Road for the protection of snakes and reptiles' says Windsor mayor

CBC News · Posted: Sep 10, 2019 9:00 AM ET | Last Updated: September 10



A Windsor, Ont. biologist recorded 91 dead snakes, including 30 classified as species-at-risk in one day on roads near Ojibway Prairie Complex. (Windsor-Essex Nature Sightings/Facebook)

Roads around Ojibway Park won't close this fall to protect migratory species at risk. The request from area supporters was pushed back for a second time, to allow administration to create a plan and make a decision in 2020.

Dwayne Dawson, executive director of operations for the City of Windsor said there would be consequences to rushing a decision.

"[There will be] longer, bigger effects with traffic, with emergency response ... the businesses, the residents," said Dawson. "It needs more than just throwing up a closure and calling that a solution."

Windsor police were also at Monday's council meeting and raised concerns about closing the roads, adding that there would be issues in other areas as traffic was diverted. Police were also concerned about response times for emergency vehicles.

Business owners, such as John Kulikowski, were concerned a closure might affect day-to-day operations.

"We acknowledge that there is a problem, but closing down our businesses for two months out of the year is not going to [be good]," said Kulikowski. "How are we going to be compensated for that loss of business?"

Windsor mayor Drew Dilkens met with west Windsor business owners before Monday's meeting to hear their concerns.

"We know the number of businesses that are [in that area] ... it would be nearly impossible to close Malden Road. It is impossible to close Malden Road for the protection of snakes and reptiles," said Dilkens.

The mayor said he was "sensitive" to comments saying the time to act was years ago, but noted that the city had made efforts to purchase protected land around the Ojibway complex.

"Throw away all the concerns we've heard tonight, which are all very valid, but you can't put your head in the sand and pretend you don't know the deal with Matchette Road," said Dilkens, referring to "external legal advice" that said the City of Windsor would be sued by Coco Paving if the road closure was to go through.

"We do that at our own peril," said Dilkens.

Eco-passages, alternatives proposed

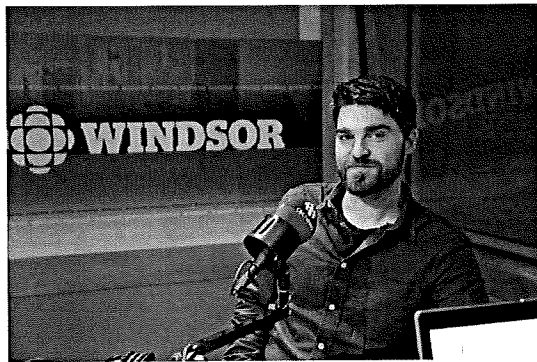
In 2017, council voted against an environmental assessment to close the road after Coco Paving threatened legal action, citing concerns about its big box complex plans in the area.

At the time, a plan was proposed to include eco-tunnels in the 2018 budget, but that funding never materialized.

Biologist Jonathan Choquette said he's disappointed with the outcome.

"The city decided to take no action in the short term on this issue," said Choquette, who sat in Monday's council meeting.

"The ask wasn't for a permanent closure, just something like what we experience when there's construction. Local traffic would be permitted."



Jonathan Choquette is the lead biologist for the Wildlife Protection Canada. (Michael Hargreaves/CBC)

Choquette said the motion on the table at Monday's meeting was for 2019, with no mention of closing the road every year. The group pushing for the closure envisioned the roads being closed as a temporary emergency measure so that more permanent solutions could be researched and implemented.

Eco-passages are one of those permanent solutions — and they already exist in some capacity in the region.

"We have a large overpass created as part of the Herb Gray Parkway," said Choquette. "And then there's a small eco-pass on Matchette Road, just south of the Herb Gray Parkway."

According to Choquette, the passages have so far been successful, and groups are measuring the passages' effectiveness with tags and trackers on various animals.

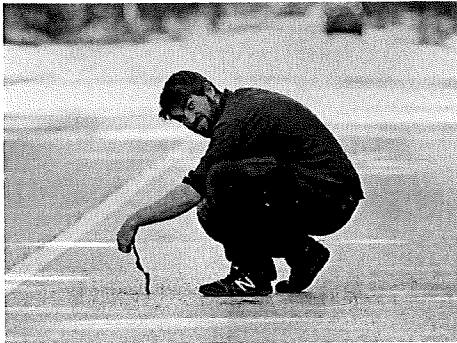
"In the short term, we are continuing to witness the mortality of endangered species and watch species decline locally," said Choquette, asking motorists to slow down on or avoid taking those roads despite the city's decision to not move forward with a closure.

Councillor Chris Holt opposed the motion to wait on making a decision.

Council will look at options alternative to road closures, including traffic calming measures or eco-tunnels.

City council again delays decision on road closures to protect at-risk snake species

Trevor Wilhelm
The Windsor Star
Updated: September 9, 2019



Jonathan Choquette peels a young Butler's garter snake from Malden Road pavement near Ojibway Prairie Nature Provincial Reserve on Oct. 7, 2016. Choquette recorded four Butler's in the same spot. Nick Brancaccio / Windsor Star

City council voted Monday to delay making a decision on temporarily closing Matchette and Malden roads — a controversial plan meant to stop the death of several at-risk snake species headed for hibernation — until 2020 capital budget talks.

The motion to delay a decision came after hours of discussion, with a dozen citizens trying to sway councillors in the argument over striking a delicate balance between human activity and protecting wildlife in the Ojibway Prairie.

"I hope this council will act," said Ward 9 Coun. Kieran McKenzie, who proposed moving the debate to budget time. "I hope this council understands the issues thoroughly and when we come to budget in 2020, we'll have a proposal to implement mitigation measures that will make a difference."

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee recommended temporarily closing both roads from Sept. 1 to Oct. 27.

The closure of Malden Road for any length of time would force my business to close permanently

Ward 1 Coun. Fred Francis, who opposed closing the roads, supported McKenzie's motion.

"I hope finally we can put this to bed," said Francis, who represents the area in question.

He opposed closing the roads over concerns about the negative effects it could have on residents and business owners.

“There is a real fear among residents and business owners,” he said.

“We have to be aware that our words, motions, and considerations even when we don’t close roads, can do harm.”

Council was first supposed to address the issue in August, but Ward 4 Coun. Chris Holt successfully argued the decision be delayed to Sept. 9 so the city could investigate only closing Malden. He hoped council would make a decision Monday.

“We seem to want to research the heck out of this and not make a decision,” said Holt, who voted against moving the discussion to budget time. “For some reason we’re afraid of getting in the way of automobile traffic, even for a short period of time.”

Species throughout the Ojibway Prairie begin a perilous journey to hibernation areas every September, when they face the deadly threat of cars and trucks on Matchette and Malden.

A study co-authored by conservation biologist Jonathan Choquette found that at least 2,083 vertebrates were found dead on the road around Ojibway between 2010 and 2013. They come from 49 species, including seven species of snakes and turtles at risk of becoming extinct in Ontario.

Choquette has said another 1,243 snakes were found dead on the road between 2015 and 2018.

He told council on Monday the loss of some snake species in Ojibway could potentially have “wide cascading effects,” including the loss of eco-tourism, an increase in rodent populations, and the spread of lyme disease.

Closing both roads could mean a 50 per cent reduction in road mortality rates, he said.

City staff recommended the closure of Matchette from Sprucewood Avenue to Broadway Street, and Malden from Todd Lane to Armanda Street, between Sept. 1 and Oct. 27. The administration report pointed out that Kitchener and Burlington recently imposed successful seasonal temporary road closures.

With its recommendation, administration included more than two dozen letters and emails overwhelmingly in support of the closure, including one from the Toronto Zoo.

One of the few parties to send letters opposing the closure came from Coco Group. For years, the company has planned to put in a big-box commercial development at Matchette and Sprucewood Avenue, just down the street from the Ojibway complex.

Coco has already threatened to take legal action if the city implements any road closures that affect its business. The company doubled down on its threat in the most recent letter to the city.

“Clearly this would be an action of not acting in good faith, and would cause significant negative harm to any approved future development on our Raceway lands to be negatively impacted, opening this matter to litigation,” wrote Anthony Rossi, Coco’s director of land development and government relations.

A dozen citizens who went before council Monday were split on what should happen.

“Ojibway is a gift, yet we tolerate the demise of her and her species by watching and doing nothing,” said Nancy Pancheshan, of Save Ojibway, who urged council to close the roads.

Guy Ruccolo, owner of Blue Star Nursery on Malden Road, said the closures would mean a 30 per cent loss in yearly sales, something that would likely shut him down. He called himself a “tree hugger,” but added this is “not about snakes and turtles.”

“We have our skins in the game,” said Ruccolo. “

“This is not an inconvenience to us. This is our livelihoods on the line. All we are asking is to keep the roads open as there were before any of us were born.”