



**AGENDA**  
and Schedule "A"  
to the minutes of the meeting of the  
**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on Thursday March 3, 2011  
Meeting at 5:30 o'clock p.m.  
**Ojibway Nature Centre**  
**5200 Matchette Road Windsor**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held February 3, 2011 – *(e-mailed separately)*

5. **PRESENTATION**

5.1 Karina Richters – City of Windsor Environmental Master Plan (EMP) -  
*attached*

5.2 Discussion regarding the WECEC role in the EMP

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 Tour of the Ojibway Nature Centre

7. **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

7.1 WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – *attached.*

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

(1) Air

(2) Transportation - *attached*

(3) Wetlands – *to be distributed at the meeting*

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

FAWG (Food Advisory Working Group of Windsor and Essex County) is hosting an open forum to discuss the creation of a FOOD CHARTER for our region on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00pm in the Oak Room of Vanier Hall, University of Windsor - attached

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled WECEC meeting is on Thursday April 7, 2011 at 5:30 o'clock p.m. at YQG Windsor Airport Board Room.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Goal A: Improve Our Air and Water Quality**

To be proactive by partnering with community groups, industry and other levels of governments to improve Windsor's air and water quality



**Objective Aa: Develop strategies to reduce cross-border air and water pollution**

Action	Steps	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsibility	
				Lead	Assist
Work with other levels of government and industry to develop strategies to reduce trans-border air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form a City team to develop a campaign in Windsor to advocate for Windsor's local air quality issues at the regional, provincial, and federal levels in the United States and Canada and with industry representatives</li> <li>Gather air quality baseline information for comparison purposes. Publish and track in the State of the Environment Report (Objective Ea).</li> <li>Identify "key players" at each level of government in south-western Ontario and southeast Michigan</li> <li>Secure funding sources</li> <li>Identify partnerships with other agencies, governments and businesses</li> <li>Liaise with the Ministry of the Environment to increase environmental testing and compliance within the City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of times that:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>carbon monoxide (CO)</li> <li>fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)</li> <li>ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</li> <li>nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</li> <li>sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)</li> </ul>                             concentrations exceed Ministry of the Environment (MOE) criteria at Windsor's monitoring station                         </li> <li>Number and length of smog advisories per year in Windsor</li> </ul>	C	EIC	WECEC MOE EC USEPA SEMCOG Other gov'ts
Work with other levels of government to develop strategies to reduce trans-border water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Form a City team to develop a campaign in Windsor to advocate for Windsor's local water quality issues at the regional, provincial, and federal levels in the United States and Canada. Focus on a coordinated approach to Combined Sewer Overflow discharge systems in Canada and the USA</li> <li>Gather water quality baseline information for comparison purposes. Publish and track in the State of the Environment Report (Objective Ea).</li> <li>Identify "key players" at each level of government</li> <li>Secure funding sources</li> <li>Identify partnerships with other agencies, governments and businesses</li> <li>Liaise with the Ministry of the Environment to increase environmental testing and compliance within the City</li> <li>Support the binational Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to restore the Detroit River</li> <li>Develop Source Water Protection Plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phosphorous, chloride, nitrate and E. coli concentrations in the City's watersheds (as described in Objective Ad)</li> </ul>	C	EIC	WECEC DRCC ERCA MOE SEMCOG Other gov'ts

WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (WECEC) – SUPPORT ROLE

**Goal A:** Improve Our Air and Water Quality

To be proactive by partnering with community groups, industry and other levels of governments to improve Windsor's air and water quality



**Objective Ad:** Collaborate with community groups, industry and other governments to enhance watershed management

Action	Steps	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsibility	
				Lead	Assist
To improve the health of the water in the City of Windsor's waterways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and implement a program to educate residents on the hazards of oil, litter and chemical disposal down drains and sewers. Promote awareness of:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The City's Household Chemical Waste (HCW) Depot and Reuse Centre</li> <li>○ The importance of downspout disconnections</li> <li>○ Temporary programs such as the Mercury Take-Back Program and Corporate Fluorescent Light Take-Back Program</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coordinate and report on community-based monitoring of local waterways – track water quality as part of the proposed State of the Environment Report (Objective Ea) using the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO) and Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG). Consider partnering with the following groups for source water protection and monitoring:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environment Canada/MOE</li> <li>○ Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC)</li> <li>○ Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER)</li> <li>○ Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)</li> <li>○ Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC)</li> <li>○ Little River Enhancement Group (Lri' Reg)</li> <li>○ Friends of Turkey Creek</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue Windsor's involvement in the Yellow Fish Road program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phosphorous, chloride, nitrate and E. coli concentrations in the City's watersheds</li> </ul>	QH, C	ES	EC Res. WECEC ERCA DRCC

**WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (WECEC) – SUPPORT ROLE**

**Goal B: Create Healthy Communities**

To enhance the environment of our neighbourhoods by fostering healthy lifestyles and integrating environmentally friendly transportation systems

**Objective Ba: Support the City's Transit Master Plan to reduce the dependence on automobiles by increasing transit use and sustainable transportation**

Action	Steps	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsibility	
				Lead	Assist
Reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips of staff and residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Windsor Area Long Range Transportation Study (WALTS) has goal to achieve 6% modal split for public transit by 2016</li> <li>• Create education campaigns to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage staff and residents to get out of their cars for at least one day a week</li> <li>○ Promote "flexible hours" to allow for carpooling to work</li> <li>○ Promote benefits of a car-free life-style: better health, lower cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• City of Windsor to participate in International Car Free Day (September 22)</li> <li>• Recruit and identify sponsor funding to reinstitute free bus rides on smog days</li> <li>• Investigate partnerships with industry and surrounding municipalities for City car pool vans and parking (<a href="http://www.carpool.ca">www.carpool.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Continue to provide incentives to City staff to leave their cars at home such as discounted bus passes and end-of-use facilities</li> <li>• Support alternative work styles such as telecommuting, or working from home one day per week to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by working with major and mid-sized employers to develop in-house ridesharing and telecommuting programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of single-occupancy vehicle trips per household per day</li> <li>• Average vehicle occupancy</li> </ul>	ST, C	Trans. TW	Parks HR Comm. WECEC All staff Council Res.

**WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (WECEC) – SUPPORT ROLE**

**Goal B: Create Healthy Communities**

To enhance the environment of our neighbourhoods by fostering healthy lifestyles and integrating environmentally friendly transportation systems

**Objective Be: Develop collaborative approaches with other governments to manage regional growth**

Action	Steps	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsibility	
				Lead	Assist
To develop and implement a Regional Growth Plan by 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the provincial context for well managed growth with regard to surrounding regions, continue to investigate "Regional Approach to Managing Growth" in Windsor/ Essex County</li> <li>• The benefits of such a growth management plan can include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Service and transportation efficiencies</li> <li>○ Coordinated approach to green space linkages</li> <li>○ Long term consideration of land use patterns</li> <li>○ Attenuating the adverse consequences of rapid growth of areas in the region that are rapidly expanding</li> <li>○ Managing population growth</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A model/process is currently being developed in the form of a Discussion Paper</li> <li>• Continue discussions and plans and develop a Regional Growth Plan that targets regional trends, greenspace allocations, transportation planning and growth management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of a Regional Growth Plan</li> <li>• Area of land covered by the Regional Growth Plan (km<sup>2</sup>)</li> </ul>	MT	Planning	ERCA MMAH WECE C M P I R Trans. TW All seven county municip alities

**WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (WECEC) – SUPPORT ROLE**

**Goal C: Green Windsor**

**To protect and enhance the City's Greenway System**

*(Greenway System: a network of natural environment and recreational elements including community and regional parks, recreation ways, natural heritage sites, waterfront recreation areas, street trees, the City's urban forest and other greenspaces and green infrastructure within the City limits)*

**Objective Ca: Expanding the Greenway System**

Action	Steps	Indicators	Time Frame	Responsibility	
				Lead	Assist
Acquire additional lands for integration into the Greenway System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support existing Greenway Policies in the Official Plan</li> <li>Confirm the current extent and proportion of the various Greenway System components (i.e. natural heritage, waterway corridors, linkages) – may require inventory and analysis</li> <li>Set acquisition targets for the Greenway System</li> <li>Develop land acquisition strategies with regional partners to define how and when the City can achieve the targets</li> <li>Source funding opportunities to secure lands</li> <li>Monitor changes in the amount and proportion of Greenway System components acquired.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of land acquired (hectares)</li> </ul>	LT	Plan	B&D Council ERCA WECE C S/H

**Objective Cb: Enhancing the Greenway System**

Enhance the quality and condition of the Greenway System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the quality and condition of the Greenway System components (This may require additional inventory and evaluation).</li> <li>Take into special account the unique and rare ecosystems in Windsor: the Ojibway Prairie Complex; the Spring Garden ANSI; Peche Island and the Memorial Park rare Carolinian Oak Grove</li> <li>Prepare Management Plans for Greenway System components and individual sites:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify issues that are currently impairing the quality of the Greenway System (i.e. habitat fragmentation/degradation, invasive species, incompatible human uses, littering, vandalism, erosion, etc.)</li> <li>Identify strategies &amp; actions to address the various issues and enhance the Greenway System</li> </ul> </li> <li>Implement Management Strategies &amp; actions (i.e., actively managing tall grass prairie by planned burns)</li> <li>Monitor the quality and condition of the Greenway System components (i.e. integrity, biodiversity, health, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of an inventory &amp; evaluation</li> <li>Completion of Management Plans</li> <li>Results of monitoring</li> </ul>	MT	EC	B&D Plan. ERCA WECE C
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**– FEBRUARY, 2011 –**

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## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Sustain This! Adapting to Climate Change can lead to a Resilient Windsor Essex**

The Climate Change conference sponsored by the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Ambassador Auditorium was a complete success. Nearly 80 people attended the event and I received many positive comments about the speakers and workshops. Thank you to all WECEC members who helped out and attended the workshop! Conference materials will be posted on the WECEC website.

## **ONGOING INITIATIVES**

### **1. Ojibway Shores Protection**

The PSW subcommittee has continued to revise the letter being presented to council regarding the rezoning of City property adjacent to Ojibway Shores. We have sent the letter to CAO Helga Reidel.

I am still awaiting a response from the Windsor Essex Mobility Group about attending a meeting with the PSW subcommittee. The Windsor Essex Mobility Group will establish a local project office in the Windsor area in the second quarter of 2011.

### **2. EBR Submission**

Information regarding EBR Policy Proposal #011-1329, *Draft Update of Ontario's Transit-Supportive Guidelines* has been reviewed by many members of the transportation subcommittee. A proposed submission will be presented to the WECEC at the March meeting and if accepted, will be submitted to the EBR before the closing date of March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

### **1. Government of Ontario Newsroom – Ontario Rules out Offshore Wind Projects**

On February 11<sup>th</sup> the McGuinty government announced that Ontario is not proceeding with proposed offshore wind projects while further scientific research is conducted. Applications for offshore wind projects in the Feed-In-Tariff program will no longer be accepted and current applications will be suspended. Ontario remains committed to renewable energy. Renewable energy is a key part of our Open Ontario Plan to create clean energy jobs while improving air quality by closing coal-fired generation.

**2. Government of Ontario Policy Proposals ([www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca))**

a. *Ontario Source Testing Code (version 3)*

The Ontario Source Testing Code provides a set of methods and procedures for the measurement of emissions of air contaminants from stationary sources when such emissions are required for determining compliance with the Environmental Protection Act and the Regulations thereunder.

This document is available for public comment until March 31<sup>st</sup>. To view the policy proposal, visit [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca). The EBR # is 011-1909.

**3. Newspaper articles**

a. Windsor Star – February 3<sup>rd</sup>: *Company's 'alternative' heating request horrifies Kingsville councilor*

A Kingsville company that's burning pellets made from Toronto garbage wants to add nine boilers to heat 170 acres of greenhouses.

REMASCO (Renewable Energy Management and Services Company) has started an environmental screening process with the Ministry of the Environment and expects to hold public meetings in mid February. The pilot project started in 2008. The company is seeking to add five more units at Southshore and put four units at Agriville Farms, a Road 2 greenhouse complex that is also part of the Mucci Group.

If the \$12-million project is allowed, it could be done over five or six years and would heat about 70 more acres of greenhouses, project manager Jim Gallant said Monday.

While the project meets guidelines for municipal solid waste incinerators, Gallant stressed the units are not incinerators but gasifiers. He said they could also be called pellet-fired boilers. He said the pellets are heated up to produce a gas of carbon monoxide and hydrogen which is burned in two stages so it can be used to heat water which is circulated through pipes to heat greenhouses.

Gallant said a health risk assessment has been done and will be available later on the company's website. He said the emissions don't smell, aren't black like emissions from other greenhouse stacks and are more environmentally friendly than greenhouses which use coal or bunker oil.

b. Windsor Star – February 3<sup>rd</sup>: *Planet could save trillions by switching to renewable energy: WWF*

The Energy Report, released by WWF International, a global conservation organization, said the plan not only provides sustainable development, but also prevents dangerous levels of global-warming causing pollution in the atmosphere.

Josh Laughren, WWF-Canada's director of climate and energy said the report demonstrates that the planet has no choice about switching to renewable energy since the supplies of cheap oil and gasoline from conventional sources are running out.

The study predicted that the investments would pay off by around 2040, based on other industry-accepted projections from organizations such as the International Energy Agency. But it also noted that

the payoff could come sooner when factoring in impacts of climate change as well as the pace of increases in the price of oil.

The report also recommends significant improvements in building codes to reduce heating costs as well as standards for every appliance or product on the market. It proposes major changes in public transportation, as well, favouring electric-powered vehicles such as high-speed trains, to reduce such energy-intensive modes as aviation.

- c. Montreal Gazette – February 8<sup>th</sup>: *Wanna lower grocery bill? Think climate-change solutions, researcher says*

Want another reason to care about what humans are doing to the environment? How about the cost of groceries?

Climate-change expert Thomas Pedersen, director of the B.C.-based Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, will lay out the latest changes our climate is facing during a free lecture in Montreal Tuesday. But his alarming message contains a touch of hope — provided people smarten up. "The changes we are seeing are profound and severe and all of this is the direct result of us, humans," Pedersen said from Vancouver Monday, while waiting to board an eastbound plane. "The price of food is at an all-time high and why is this happening? Extreme weather is impacting harvests."

Greenhouse gases, global warming and fluctuating water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean are driving weather systems.

Take a look at the last year: A punishing summer heat wave in Russia; Pakistan under water; and ruinous floods in Queensland, Australia. Pedersen said all had a catastrophic effect on wheat, rice and cane sugar supplies. "All of these events contribute to the price of food and even, to an extent, to political instability."

- d. Windsor Star – February 17<sup>th</sup>: *Windsor-Essex region urged to fight Great Lakes phosphorous Pollution*

The Essex region needs to double or triple efforts to reduce phosphorus pollution and algae blooms in Lake Erie, the area's watershed restoration director said Wednesday. That would mean doubling or tripling the \$400,000 that ERCA receives from the federal and provincial governments to plant trees and reduce nutrients heading into rivers and creeks.

Algae blooms, which raised concerns in the 1970s, have made a comeback in Lake Erie in the last decade. In the last two summers there have been algae problems on the lake and satellite images showed the western basin was green with algae. This time the phosphorus is coming from a number of sources, including fertilizers from lawns, agricultural run-off and faulty septic systems.

To reduce the phosphorus heading to the lake, residents should consider not fertilizing their lawns or using a fertilizer with less phosphorus and spreading less of it. In rural areas, the conservation authority works with landowners to reduce erosion by planting trees and grass along drains to reduce run-off. It also uses grants to encourage landowners to improve their septic systems.

## TASKS FOR NEXT MONTH

### 1. Ojibway Shores Protection

I have contacted a representative from the Windsor Essex Mobility Group asking for a delegation to the WECEC regarding the environmental assessment of the Windsor-Essex Parkway. I will continue to make more contacts and follow-up to try and schedule a meeting with the WEMG.

### 2. Improve relationships with Essex County

As outlined in the Strategic Plan, meeting with each county municipality is mandated in order to identify potential environmental concerns to bring forward to the WECEC. I will begin to contact the county municipalities in order to fulfill this Strategic Plan requirement.

# WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
350 CITY HALL SQUARE WEST, ROOM 203  
WINDSOR ONTARIO N9A 6S1



Heather Edwardson  
EBR Coordinator  
Ministry of Transportation  
301 St. Paul Street, Floor 2  
St. Catharines Ontario, L2R 7R4

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2011

EBR Registry Number: 011-1329  
Title: *Draft Update of Ontario's Transit-Supportive Guidelines*  
Ministry: Ministry of Transportation

Dear Heather Edwardson,

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is very excited about the Draft Update of Ontario's Transit-Supportive Guidelines. Upon review of the proposed document, we see a number of ways in which the City of Windsor and County of Essex could benefit from the strategies suggested.

The highlighted "Green Actions" incorporate important aspects of environmental sustainability into the guidelines. It is encouraging to see suggestions relating to parks planning, creating complete streets and improving environmental conditions for transit users.

We would like to suggest the following specific recommendations to the Draft Update:

**1) Transit Service Types: Guideline 3.1.1**

Strategy 1 - *When exploring the introduction or expansion of transit service, agencies should consider a range of factors including:*

- *"economic forecasts, future land use and travel patterns"*

This statement is a bit simplistic in that it begs the questions: what economic forecasts are considered? Future land use driven by what factors? Travel patterns based on rationale or irrational long term needs?

The above statement is fraught with terms that can be manipulated by data that should not be considered. For example, a recent news release places Windsor at the forefront of economic recovery, another calls us a potential brain trust of innovation. Both of these are essentially hyped predictions driven by specific interests groups. An element of public relations is involved that should be ignored to get to the essence of where we are and where a community wishes to go. As both a community and a province we have seen too much hype that can be linked to the present boom and bust cycles.

# WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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The above bullet should be revised to read:

- *Reliable economic forecasts, future land use based on sustainable growth and logical and easily supported travel patterns, **all based on the needs of the region.***

## **2) Asset Management: Guideline 3.2.4**

*Strategy 4 - Develop a financial plan to fund the capital investment and operations and maintenance plans. These plans should consider life cycle costs and depreciation.*

The above statement is true however the second sentence focuses/references only life cycle costs and depreciations. This section should also highlight labour costs and the benefits of in house control as opposed to contracting out.

As regions move slowly towards consolidated transportation system, the shortfalls in budgets and transfer payments has allowed for the short term rationalization of contracting out or dependence on public-private partnership schemes. To date, these initiatives have not borne out the results touted at their inception. The section should be revised to emphasize the need for financial plans that are premised on public ownership that reflect the full range of costs and responsibilities entailed. The public-private partnership method also assaults the premise that municipalities should not retreat from governance in running their agencies. The true costs of contracting out and public-private partnership is immeasurable given the history of such endeavors.

## **3) Promotion and Education: Guideline 3.5.4**

*Strategy 1, second bullet point - Conducting surveys and focus groups to identify needs, suggest opportunities and measure success;*

We suggest conducting surveys that are developed from input from the cycling community and environmental groups in the region. Also, input from active elders, youth groups, and visible minority would be beneficial. This would give surveys and focus groups the diversity of perspective that would draw the entire community in to a cycling future.

Thank you for providing Ontario with such an interesting and comprehensive document regarding transportation strategies and guidelines. This is a great start more efficient and sustainable transportation systems within Ontario.

Sincerely,

Frank Butler  
Chair, Transportation Subcommittee  
Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

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**A FAWG of change has rolled in!**

**FAWG (Food Advisory Working Group of Windsor and Essex County) is hosting an open forum to discuss the creation of a FOOD CHARTER for our region.**

**Date: March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 4-7pm**

**Place: Oak Room, Vanier Hall, University of Windsor**

**Please register at:**

**<https://web4.uwindsor.ca/units/socialjustice/rsvp.nsf/EventRSVP?OpenForm>**

**Admission is free and open to all.**

**Light refreshments will be available.**

**Sponsored By: Labour Studies Programme, Department of Political Science,  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, the Centre for  
Studies in Social Justice, and FEDUP Windsor**