



– AUGUST 2017 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Updates

A. Green Speaker Contest

WECEC has proposed turning one of the Green Speakers into a contest for quality environmental research being conducted in Windsor Essex County. Students conducting research could apply to be part of the contest and deliver a brief presentation about their research. WECEC members would then award a winner with funding. The University of Windsor has been approached and is eager to partner with WECEC. The competition would also be open to St. Clair students. WECEC members helping to coordinate this event include Debbie, Joe, Radwan and Edwin. This event has been deferred to 2018.

B. Potential Free Movie Screening of “Before the Flood”

Every year the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup has great success coordinating a free Movie Screening of an environmental, usually water related film. There is always good attendance and a speakers panel is offered after the movie to spur discussion.

This would be a great activity for WECEC to organize in the fall of 2017 since there are funds left to be spent. The film “Before the Flood” is allowed to be screened and a download of the film has been provided. This is a big name film about climate change that would get a considerable draw from the public. A panel of climate change experts could be coordinated for a discussion afterwards.

Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, traveling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change firsthand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.

Preliminary costs for weeknight theatre rentals are about \$1,500 for Silvercity or about \$700 for Lakeshore cinema. Other costs could include advertising. In the past the DRCC has sponsored a day time screening for students. This would be an additional cost of about \$1,200 for Silvercity or about \$300 for Lakeshore and includes theatre rental as well as bussing the students.

C. Potential Green Speakers for 2018

- Partnership with EnDesign currently exploring bringing in a sustainable cities expert.
- Water Brothers.
- John Hartig – Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge has published a recent book titled *Bringing Conservation to Cities: Lessons from Building the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge*.
- Alice Grgicak-Mannion – researcher and professor at GLIER has done some great mapping of contaminants and other information specific to Windsor/Essex.

2. Reports to Council

June 8th 2017 - Report 96 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

– August 2017 –

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Passa,

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has asked for the public and municipalities to provide recommendations on how it should update the province's Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP) before July 15, 2017; and

WHEREAS Essex County and the City of Windsor are in close proximity to the Michigan-based Fermi nuclear station and Ohio-based Davis-Besse nuclear station; and

WHEREAS over forty civil society organizations, including the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), have called on the provincial government to address gaps in current emergency plans by strengthening transparency, protecting vulnerable communities, meeting best practices and protecting drinking water;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City of Windsor and County of Essex Council submit the following recommendations to the Government of Ontario to ensure communities living in proximity to the Fermi and the Davis-Besse nuclear stations be accorded the same level of public safety as communities living near the Ontario-based Bruce, Darlington and Pickering nuclear stations.

Recommendations to the Government of Ontario regarding the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP): Include requirements for the pre-distribution and availability of potassium iodide (KI) pills for communities living in proximity to the Fermi and Davis-Besse nuclear stations equivalent to requirements for Ontario-based nuclear stations;

- 1) Recognize public expectations for public safety by ensuring plans are in place to address Fukushima-scale accident;*
- 2) Adopt a policy of meeting or exceeding international best practices in nuclear emergency response measures wherever feasible;*
- 3) Require provincial and municipal authorities to regularly identify vulnerable communities within provincial nuclear response zones and prepare emergency measures adapted to the needs of such vulnerable communities;*
- 4) Include new requirements for transparency and regular public review, especially with affected communities;*
- 5) Ensure awareness campaigns are in place to inform the residents of Southwestern Ontario on how to prepare for a nuclear emergency; and*
- 6) Ensure adequate measures are in place to protect drinking water in the event an accident at a Canadian or American-based reactor contaminates the Great Lakes.*

And further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

The municipalities of Essex, Amherstburg, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Leamington, Kingsville, Tecumseh, Windsor, Chatham-Kent;

Windsor Essex County Health Unit

City of Toronto

City of Toronto Office of Emergency Management

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Members of Provincial Parliament

Lisa Gretzky

Percy Hatfield

Taras Natyshak

Carried.

This report was moved at the July Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee and subsequently at City Council. This report was moved by County Council.

June 8th 2017 - Report 97 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

– August 2017 –

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by D. Coronado, seconded by J. Passa,

WHEREAS the ERCA Outreach Coordinator position is currently vacant and the hiring process to replace the previous Outreach Coordinator is not currently scheduled; and

WHEREAS the ERCA Outreach Coordinator was responsible for various greening initiatives throughout Windsor and Essex County including but not limited to tree plantings, clean up events, native wildflower plantings and school greening projects; and

WHEREAS in 2016 in the Detroit River Watershed alone, this position was instrumental in the planting of 27,797 trees/shrubs/wildflowers/grasses, engaging 12,776 volunteers and coordinating 23 cleanups that resulted in 79 tonnes of debris being removed from the environment; and

WHEREAS the ERCA Outreach Coordinator was critical in managing all of the various “Friends of Watersheds” group activities and events; and

WHEREAS the importance of continued greening in Windsor Essex County is crucial as currently the natural coverage in the region is 8.5% compared to the ERCA goal of 12% by 2020; and

WHEREAS the loss of this position has been felt by numerous environmental organizations and school groups in the region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that through City and County Council, the Essex Region Conservation Authority **BE REQUESTED** to maintain and fill the Outreach Coordinator position to ensure these important initiatives continue to improve the environment, human health and quality of life for all Windsor Essex residents.

Carried.

This report was noted and filed at the July Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee and subsequently at City Council.

June 8th 2017 - Report 98 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by M. Nelson, seconded by D Grant,

*That City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider filling the recent vacancy left by Jesse Gardner Costa, Windsor Essex County Environment Committee.*

Carried.

This report was referred to the City of Windsor Striking Committee at the July Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee and subsequently by City Council.

WECEC BUDGET – SUMMARY

2017 Budget			
Item	Credit	Estimated Expenditure	Status
2017 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Pat on the Back		\$2,321.01	Spent
Potential Movie Screening			Proposed
Website Hosting Fee		\$400.00	Committed
Website Domain Renewal		\$50.00	Committed
TOTALS	\$8,000	\$2,771.01	
NON-ALLOCATED REMAINING		\$5,228.99	