



– JANUARY 2017 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Communications

A. Green Speaker Series – Invasive Phragmites

Over 50 people attended the Invasive Phragmites roundtable on December 14th at the Essex County Civic Centre. The audience watched a video produced by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and heard presentations from Ken Vegh, Town of Kingsville, Lu Ann Marentette, Town of Leamington, and Colin Cassin, Ontario Invasive Plant Council. Videos of the presentations are available on the WECEC website as well as on the WECEC youtube channel.

B. Promotional Items

The 2016 promotion budget was spent on 100 travel coffee mugs, 100 water bottles and native plant seeds. These will be distributed at events such as Earth Day.

C. Urban Forest Management Plan

In response to WECEC's request to be consulted with regards to the City's Urban Forest Management Plan, I have spoken with City Forester Paul Giroux and he has agreed to present at WECEC during the development of the Plan. He is currently undertaking an inventory of the trees in our City, so it will likely not be until 2018 that the process for the Urban Forest Management Plan begins. He is also happy to present the findings of the tree inventory to WECEC.

D. Potential Green Speakers for 2017

- 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.
- Contributing to the City of Windsor's movie night featuring a climate change or energy related documentary to promote the Community Energy Plan.

E. Microbead Ban Coming 2018

On November 5, 2016, the federal government published a proposed regulation in the Canada Gazette, entitled Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations, to ban the manufacture or import of most toiletries that contain microbeads on or after January 1, 2018. The prohibition applies to products that are natural health products or non-prescription drugs on or after July 1, 2018.

This past summer, microbeads less than 5mm in size were added to Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), paving the way for regulatory controls.

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According to news reports, industries using microbeads had in many cases already voluntarily phased out microbeads by the time Canada had officially listed them as toxic. Five of fourteen of the heaviest users in Canada had already stopped using their products, with nine more expected to follow suit by 2018 or 2019.

2. Reports to Council

None pending at this time.

WECEC BUDGET – SUMMARY

2017 Budget			
Expense	Credit	Expenditure	Status
2017 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Pat on the Back		\$2,500	
Green Speaker #1		\$1,000	
Green Speaker #2		\$1,000	
Green Speaker #3		\$1,000	
Website Hosting Fee		\$400	
Website Domain Renewal		\$50	
Earth Day		\$35	
TOTALS	\$8,000	\$2,015	
NON-ALLOCATED REMAINING			

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WECEC Work Plan 2016

Strategic Direction #1 – Profile of WECEC		
GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME
Goal: Improve relationships with City and County Councils.	Prepare an annual report of accomplishments and send to City and County Councils, environmental organizations, boards etc.	Yearly
Goal: Improve relationships with other organizations, committees.	Hold a meeting with other environmental organizations and committees to share information; Continue to pursue opportunities for partnering on community education/public awareness; Hold annual Pat on the Back Awards presenting \$2,000 to local environmental organizations and schools.	Yearly Ongoing Yearly
Strategic Direction #2 – Advocacy		
GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME
Goal: Provide advice on environmental issues to the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities.	Assess issues referred from City and County Councils and respond with suggested recommendations; Provide recommendations to City and County Councils on environmental matters identified through our own initiative.	Ongoing Ongoing
Goal: Advocate for environmental groups in Windsor Essex County.	Accept delegations from environmental groups and advocate on behalf of these groups to City and County Councils.	Ongoing
Goal: Provide advice to City and County Council related to Federal and Provincial initiatives.	Develop recommendations related to Federal and Provincial plans, policies and initiatives to be forwarded to City and County Councils.	Ongoing
Strategic Direction #3 – Public Engagement and Education		
GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME
Goal: Increase awareness of WECEC by the public.	Maintain a website and Facebook page; Strategically identify and attend community events; Maintain a professional display for participation at community events.	Monthly Ongoing Ongoing
Goal: Increase engagement of public on environmental issues	Develop environmental education campaigns and messaging to help inform Windsor Essex County residents about environmental issues; Host free Green Speaker Series events with environmental experts highlighting environmental issues.	Ongoing Ongoing

List of Priorities (including but not limited to)

- Greening the City – specifically more green roofs and other types of green infrastructure
- Walkability, complete streets, trails, active transportation
- Review of existing tree cutting bylaw
- Pollution issues, cancer causing environmental issues
- Right to Know by-law
- Parkway natural areas
- Know Your City tour
- Information sharing about what other municipalities are doing
- Invasive species control
- Youth engagement
- Anti-Idling
- Bike Lanes

Current List of Subcommittees

1. Air
2. Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues