



– JUNE, 2011 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

The PSW subcommittee was represented at a Carolinian Canada meeting this month regarding the Lake Erie Coastline Trail project. There is great potential for WECEC to become involved in this project in the future as the trail runs through Essex County as well as Windsor.

The subcommittee will have a meeting with County planner Jane Mustac regarding the Environmental Assessment that was completed on the Lauzon Parkway upgrade project. We are interested in making connections between woodlots on the airport and woodlots on Lauzon Parkway.

We are still eagerly awaiting a draft storyboard for our Black Oak video from Axxess Design.

2. Regional Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

During a presentation from the Trillium Foundation, it was suggested that WECEC apply for grant money in order to hire a consultant to complete a Regional Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. WECEC would have to apply in collaboration with a registered non-profit such as the Essex County Field Naturalists. This possibility will be discussed at the July committee meeting.

3. Renewable Energy Strategy and Local Purchasing Initiative

I plan to meet with City of Windsor purchasing representative Shelby Askin-Hager on July 7th to discuss opportunities for incorporating incentives for local purchasing into City of Windsor operations. This initiative stemmed from a Notice of Motion to encourage purchasing of local solar panels for City of Windsor projects.

4. EnviroExpo

Our space at the EnviroExpo has been booked in conjunction with the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup. I would like two volunteers from the committee to commit to being able to volunteer at the event on November 5th and 6th. The EnviroExpo will provide nametags (with free entry) for up to 2 volunteers.

5. Pat on the Back Awards

The “Pat on the Back Awards” program has been launched and I have received multiple application forms already. A press release has been written and will be released the week of July 4th. During the July meeting the committee must discuss the community event where we will announce the contest winners. The main expenses for this event will be facility rental and any food that the committee will provide.

The subcommittee originally created to determine the logistics for this program will be judging the applications. Any other WECEC members who would like to sit on this sub-committee are more than welcome.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Notices

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is holding a public comment period from June 15th until July 19th, 2011, and a public hearing also on July 19th, 2011 regarding the following three applications:

- Waterfront Petroleum Terminal Company's (Waterfront) proposed installation and operation of two loading racks and three storage tanks. The facility is located at 1071 Miller Road, Dearborn, Michigan. The Permit to Install (PTI) Application Number is 181-10.
- Marathon Petroleum Company LLC's (Marathon) proposed installation and operation of a truck loading rack for asphalt cement. The facility is located at 301 South Fort Street, Detroit, Michigan. The PTI Application Number is 197-10.
- McCoig Materials, LLC's (McCoig) proposed operation of their existing concrete batch plant above the exemption levels in Rule 336.1289. The facility is located at 1441 Springwells Court, Detroit, Michigan. The PTI Application Number is 242-10.

The public comment period and hearing are to allow all interested parties the opportunity to comment on the Department's proposed conditional approval of the PTIs. It has been preliminarily determined that each of the proposed actions listed above will not violate any of the Department's rules nor the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

If you would like more information, please email me at aparent@city.windsor.on.ca.

2. Newspaper articles

a. Windsor Star June 30th – City 'bicycle friendly'

Windsor was one of four Ontario cities to be awarded with a "bicycle friendly" status at a provincial bicycle summit this week.

The Share the Road Cycling Coalition unveiled the winners of its first ever Bicycle Friendly Communities awards on Sunday at this week's Ontario Cycling Summit in Ottawa.

Windsor was awarded a bronze bicycle friendly status along with Ajax, while Ottawa and Waterloo each earned silver. The application process to become a bicycle friendly city is described as "rigorous" and cities can be awarded platinum, gold, silver or bronze ratings.

TASKS FOR NEXT MONTH

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

I will continue to work with Axxess Design to produce an educational video regarding the improper use of Black Oak Park. I will work with Axxess Design to produce a video script that WECEC approves of.

The subcommittee is set to speak with a County planner regarding the Lauzon Parkway Environmental Assessment at the beginning of July.

The subcommittee will be in contact with Carolinian Canada and will be available to assist with the Lake Erie coastal trail. This may mean bringing forward recommendations to both City and County council.

2. Regional Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

I will continue to await further direction from the committee as to how to proceed with this initiative. Applying for a Trillium grant is one way the committee could further this initiative as these funds could be used to hire a consultant to construct the plan.

3. Pat on the Back Awards

The committee has received many applications for our awards program. I will organize the community event in August where the sub-committee will select the successful candidates and present them with their awards.

4. Local Purchasing Initiative

I will work with Shelby Askin-Hager from the City of Windsor purchasing department to try and further this initiative.