



**– OCTOBER 2014 –**

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## **ONGOING INITIATIVES**

### **1. Green Speaker Series**

#### Micro plastics in the Great Lakes

Paul Helm (Ministry of the Environment) spoke about the emerging issue of microplastics in the Great Lakes on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ojibway Nature Centre. A verbal update about the event will be provided at the November WECEC meeting.

#### Low Impact Development

ERCA and the City of Windsor are continuing to coordinate bringing in members of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and/or the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to discuss Low Impact Development with municipal staff. In addition, the speakers will be asked to present to the public as a Green Speaker Series event in the evening.

### **2. Reports to Council**

#### **Report No. 83 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:**

That the WECEC Coordinator **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter on behalf of WECEC to the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) with a copy to the Citizens for an Accountable Megahospital Planning Process (CAMPP) reflecting the following principles for the new megahospital:

- Focus should be on access for the greatest number of users, not geographic centre;
- Challenge the 50-60 acre assumption;
- Greenfield only if no suitable redevelopment (brownfield) options exist;
- Must understand the locations effect on neighbourhoods and sprawl/blight;
- Ensure urban planning experts are heard and their concerns addressed.

*This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was noted and filed by City Council. This report was approved by County Council.*

#### **Report No. 85 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:**

That the *Revised Terms of Reference* dated July 2014 for the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee relating to the amendment to the “Composition and Selection of Members” **BE APPROVED**.

*This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.*

#### **Report No. 86 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:**

Whereas in February of 2014 the International Joint Commission released the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP) report providing policy advice on solving the algae bloom issue in Lake Erie;

Whereas the LEEP report concludes that the Maumee and Detroit River are the largest contributors to the phosphorus loading in Lake Erie, and that 66% of the bloom is from agriculture/rural nonpoint sources, mostly from Ohio. In addition, at least half of the annual load occurs in the spring (March 1 – June 30) but 90% of the annual load is deposited in select rain events; and

Whereas the recommendations of the LEEP report include, but are not limited to:

- Setting Loading Targets:
  - Proposed 37% reduction in total phosphorus (TP) and 41% reduction in dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) for the Maumee River and Lake Erie west basin tributaries
  - Proposed 46% reduction in TP and 78% reduction in DRP from the Lake Erie west basin and central basin tributaries
- Developing Agriculture & Non-point Solutions – provide incentive and regulatory interventions focused on:
  - the critical March-June period
  - priority watersheds
  - mandatory certification standards for fertilizer applicators
  - linking insurance with conservation performance
  - ban fertilizer applications on frozen ground
  - mandatory septic inspections
- Urban Areas
  - improve adoption of green infrastructure
  - prohibit sales and use of phosphorous fertilizers for lawn care (with some exceptions)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that City and County Council **RECEIVE** the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority report and its recommendations and strive to implement them where possible;

And further **BE IT RESOLVED** that City and County Council send letters to the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture inquiring as to how the proposed recommendations will be implemented in Ontario.

*This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. This report was also received at County Council.*

**Report No. 87 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:**

Whereas rain gardens are designed to absorb runoff from impervious urban areas diverting it from storm drains or combined sewers therefore recharging groundwater, diverting stormwater from municipal infrastructure and reducing polluted runoff into the local water bodies; and

Whereas rain gardens constructed with native plants improve biodiversity and provide food for pollinators; and

Whereas the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) has already begun working with member municipalities to create rain gardens at various locations including Harrow, Leamington, and Windsor; and

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Whereas ERCA staff will provide expertise to design and build a rain garden and help monitor its effectiveness;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that every Windsor and Essex County member municipality strive to complete a demonstration rain garden by the end of 2015 in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

*This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. This report was also received at County Council.*

### **Report No. 88 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:**

That City Council **BE REQUESTED** to endorse segregated bike lanes on Cabana Road as identified in the report of the Transportation Planning Engineer dated June 25, 2014 entitled “Cabana Road Active Transportation Facilities for the Windsor Loop and CQ28-2013 Feasibility of Constructing a Pilot Segregated Cycle Lane”.

*This report was received for information at the August Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and at the October 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.*

### **WECEC BUDGET – SUMMARY**

<b>2014 Budget</b>			
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Status</b>
2013 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Website domain renewal		\$28.67	Paid
Website hosting fee		\$427.10	Committed
Earth Day		\$35.00	Paid
Provincial EAC Symposium		\$368.33	Paid
June meeting at Ojibway		\$108.00	Paid
Pat on the Back		\$2,298.74	Paid
Green Speaker - Sue Chan		\$890.21	Paid
Green Speaker - Paul Helm		\$500.00	Committed
Green Speaker - LID		\$1,000.00	
Airport meetings		\$152.64	Committed
Promotional Materials		\$2,000.00	
November meeting at Ojibway		108.00	Committed
Totals	\$8,000.00	\$7,302.61	
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>		<b>\$83.31</b>	