



– NOVEMBER, 2011 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

Members of the sub-committee met with various staff from the City of Windsor and ERCA regarding the airport woodlots and the recent City Council request to produce a report describing their significance and value. The report will aim to show the intrinsic value of PSW's, re-iterate their Provincial designation, as well as deter development on airport property due to lack of stormwater retention capabilities. There will be a follow-up meeting to discuss how the report is developing.

The sub-committee has sent a formal letter to Mr. Jim Faught, Public Liaison Officer for the Windsor Essex Mobility Group regarding compensation strategies for PSW's slated to be destroyed during parkway construction. The letter was also cc'd to Erin Sanders, Wetland Evaluator for the Ministry of Natural Resources as well as Kevin DeVos, Ministry of Transportation. The letter requested a meeting with WEMG to discuss habitat and wetland compensation linkage strategies. Currently the sub-committee has received no response.

The Black Oak video is expected to be completed the week of November 28th. WECEC will hopefully have the opportunity to enjoy it at the December meeting.

2. Regional Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

Contact has been made with members from the Inter-Municipal Planning Consultation Committee (IMPCC) to begin discussions with the group regarding a Regional Sustainability Plan.

3. Speaker Series – Elizabeth May

Elizabeth May has agreed to speak in Windsor at the end of January. This event will kick off our "Green Speaker Series". On Saturday, January 28th Elizabeth will speak at a public event at a location to be determined by the Committee. The Committee must decide on an appropriate speaker fee, as well as a possible admission fee for the public. The event will likely happen in the morning therefore the Committee will have to determine if breakfast/brunch will be served to attendees.

4. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

The City of Windsor will not carry over any excess funds left in the WECEC budget at the end of 2011. In order to ensure this money is spent Co-chair's Alan and Charlie have recommended that public service announcements be professionally made as part of a renewable energy media campaign. This will promote renewable energy and offer distinct positive effects of the industry on our region.

Several meetings have been conducted with various marketing companies. Quotes were received from three companies and Generator Design was ultimately selected as the company to produce the campaign if the Committee decides to proceed with this project.

Generator Design has lead many advertising campaigns, most notably for Greenshield, the Home Depot, Magna and Outland Outfitters. A quote and campaign outline will be provided by the company at the December WECEC meeting.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Symposium

This month, the Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium was held in Durham Region and hosted by the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee. Members of WECEC were able to attend and learned a great deal about projects and programs being completed by other Environmental Committees throughout the province.

Presentations by Durham, Cambridge, Aurora, Richmond Hill and Oshawa gave some great insight into various Committee structure. These committees shared the projects they were working on and provided feedback on how similar projects could be started all over the province. Highlights included several environmental achievement awards programs, student learning guides, natural features maps and a "favorite places" section on Committee websites.

The Town of Oshawa has contributed a great resource to all committees throughout the province by creating an EAC website. www.eacs.ca is a website designed for all environmental advisory committees in Ontario. Each one has their own page which can be updated by a designated administrator. Our page is currently not up-to-date and we are awaiting our administrative information so the page can be updated. The website provides information on the history and the advantages of EACs, who can be on a committee and what they do. There is also a "publication" section as well as information on the yearly EAC symposium. An EAC facebook page has also been created as a way to share information amongst committees. Search "Environmental Advisory Committees of Ontario" to become a fan.

During the remainder of the Symposium, committee members listened to various presentations regarding trees and forests, in honour of 2011 being the International Year of the Forests. Topics covered included ideal tree canopy cover in a city and how to increase it, information and benefits of urban forests, the importance of older trees and having a certified tree risk assessor on municipal staff as well as possible forest management plans.

Along with various other municipalities, WECEC had a booth set up detailing the issues we are interested in and ways in which we have had an impact on the local environment this year. The display advertised our website and our brochure was provided to those interested.