



May 30, 2011

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Committee meeting held May 12, 2011 are *attached*.

Yours very truly,

Susan Vadori

Susan Vadori
Committee Coordinator (A)

SV/
Windsor, Ontario May 12, 2011

A meeting of the **Windsor- Essex County Environment Committee** is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in the Windsor Airport Board Room, there being the following members:

Charlie Wright, Co-chair
Councillor Alan Halberstadt
John Miller
Phil Roberts
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Pauline Cheslock
Tamara Stomp
Dean Clevett
Paul Henshaw
Mark Bartlet, arrives at 5:47 o'clock p.m.

Regrets received from:

Matthew Child
Tim Stratichuk
Troy Brian
Parma Yarkin
Frank Butler

Also present were the following resource personnel:

James Bryant,
Averil Parent, WECEC Coordinator
Karina Richters, Environmental Coordinator
Susan Vadori (A), Committee Coordinator
Jennifer Luu,

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Co-Chairperson calls the meeting to order at 5:35 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follow.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None requested.

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

None declared.

4. **MINUTES**

Moved by P. Henshaw, seconded by A. Halberstadt,
That the minutes of the meeting of the Windsor Essex County Environment
Committee held April 7, 2011 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

5.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 **Council report re: Coordinator Position**

Moved by D. Clevett, seconded by T. Stomp
That the Environmental Coordinator **BE AUTHORIZED** to proceed on behalf of
Windsor Essex County Environment Committee with the report to City and County
Council regarding the recommendation of WECEC to finalize and create a full time
permanent position being the Environmental Coordinator Assistant and Windsor Essex
County Environment Committee Coordinator.
Carried

5.2 **Regional Growth Strategy**

A. Parent explains that previously at a WECEC meeting, Matt Child of Essex
Region Conservation Authority had referred to revisiting the Regional Growth Strategy.

Councillor Halberstadt indicated an expectation of bringing this Regional Growth
Strategy forward to the political level. A. Parent noted that contact had been made with
other regional municipalities and would continue to seek funding sources for the planner
and the consultant fees and will update the Committee when information is available. It
is generally agreed that the idea of a Regional Growth Strategy is a good idea to explore.
D. Coronado inquired about what organization's budget absorbed the cost associated and
with the professional printing of the IMPCC annual report. Councillor Halberstadt
indicates that he will investigate the source of financial responsibility.

M. Bartlet arrives at meeting at 5:47 o'clock p.m.

5.3 Community Project Fund structure and application process

The Committee generally discusses ideas and suggestions for the WECEC 2011 budget items for a promotional community project. Ideas and discussions include:

- Groups eligibility - Event theme based ideas, hosted by WECEC and/or partnered with local grass root organizations;
- Application Process - Projects with educational or regional criteria and awards based on established criterion from a sub-committee;
- Fund Availability - Dollar value associated with prize allotment from WECEC operational budget (1 grand prize vs. many smaller prizes);
- WECEC could commission a heritage video based on the local environment and use the promotional material at local shows and events;
- “Sustainable” workshop events;
- Timeline - Set up a sub committee to consider options and report back to Committee.

Moved by Councillor Halberstadt, seconded by D. Clevett

That an adhoc Community Project fund sub-committee **BE FORMED** to consider and investigate the criterion for a Community Project fund structure and the appropriate application process and report back to WECEC with recommendations.

Carried.

It is generally agreed that the following volunteer members form the adhoc Community Project fund sub-committee being: M. Bartlet, J. Miller, C. Wright, A. Parent and Councillor Halberstadt (optional).

6.0 COORDINATORS REPORT

6.1 WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report

Averil Parent reports to the Committee regarding the Earth Day held at MicMac Park on Sunday May 1, 2011 and notes the great success the Committee enjoyed at the event. At the WECEC sponsored display booth under the large tent at MicMac Park, the Committee gave away bird seed, and signed up attendees to win a bird feeder or an eco-friendly Scepter gas can and Ms. Parent noted how popular the survey poster was with Earth Day attendees. Information gathered from the poster indicated that air quality is one of the high public concerns.

A. Parent notes that the Green Infrastructure Workshop held at the Ojibway Nature Centre in April was well attended.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Air

D. Coronado provides an update regarding First Energy, which is a large power company in the United States, joined with the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and this court case was considered in Port Clinton, Ohio, attached as Appendix "A".

7.2 Transportation

The sub-committee report is attached as an update highlighting the following concerns - WECAER, the Airport hangar questions answered, and the Regional transit report.

7.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

The educational video to be produced by Axxess Design, regarding the use of Black Oak Park is progressing well. This project is weather dependent.

It is noted that the designated Provincially Significant Wetlands along the Parkway are being challenged by the Windsor Essex Mobility Group.

It is noted that the environmental assessment for the Lauzon Parkway development has been released. It is suggested that the consultants for that project be invited to engage the PSW subcommittee.

The Airport will be holding a Public Meeting regarding the Airport Master Plan. It is generally agreed that WECEC would like to confer on this project. A couple items of discussion include: linkages of interior forest habitats and parklands to the interior of the County. This meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2011 at the YQG Boardroom. All are welcome to attend. Informal meetings will include discussions on significant wetlands, environment footprint of area and overall land use plan. YQG Airport lands contain some Provincially Significant Woodlots. Members of the transportation subcommittee are asked to attend the public meeting and bring their comments back to WECEC.

Moved by D. Clevett, seconded by P. Cheslock

That the use, method and outcome of an electronic poll conducted by the Committee Coordinator **BE UTILIZED** for canvassing and voting purposes due to time constraints and time sensitive material.

Carried

Councillor Halberstadt inquires about responsibility of the issuance of Certificates of Approvals for Air and Waste water quality.

Moved by D. Clevett, seconded by M. Bartlet
That reports 7.1., 7.2 and 7.3 **BE ACCEPTED** as presented.
Carried

J. Luu leaves meeting at 6:45 o'clock p.m.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Sustainable energy strategy for Windsor

M. Bartlet notes that the Windsor Essex County area has been diligent about supporting sustainable energy sources in the area. The idea of buying local is discussed regarding the materials used in the sustainable energy market. M. Bartlet updates the Committee that he will be bringing a Notice of Motion at the next WECEC meeting.

The Renewable Energy policy is generally discussed and it is a possibility that a delegation to update and bring information to the committee could be invited at a future meeting.

9.0 COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Sustainability Applied conference at St. Clair Centre for the Arts, June 9th and 10th, 2011

WECEC will be represented at the national conference "Sustainability Applied" which will be hosted at St.Clair Center for the Arts on June 9 and 10. The WECEC Coordinator will be attending and WECEC will share booth space with the City of Windsor Environmental Master Plan.

The Environment Expo is scheduled for Saturday November 5, 2011 and Sunday November 6, 2011 daily from 10 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m. at the Windsor Expo Centre on Walker Road. As a cost savings measure, the idea of sharing a booth with an environment partner is discussed.

Moved by M. Bartlet, seconded by P. Cheslock

That the participation of WECEC at the Environment Expo scheduled for Saturday November 5, 2011 and Sunday November 6, 2011 daily from 10 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m. at the Windsor Expo Centre on Walker Road **BE APPROVED** in principle and further that a shared booth space **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

Moved by M. Bartlet, seconded by P. Cheslock

That the regularly scheduled August 2011 WECEC meeting will **BE SUSPENDED**, and the regular schedule will commence again in September 2011.

Carried

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 2011 at the YQG Windsor Airport Board Room.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:20 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

WECEC AIR SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE – MAY 2011

On March 1st in a Port Clinton, Ohio courtroom, the resources of First Energy, one of the largest power companies in the U.S., and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) were arrayed against four citizen groups. First Energy had approximately a dozen lawyers and support staff; the NRC had about half a dozen, while the citizen groups had one lawyer who was a volunteer. It was clearly a case of David versus Goliath, and, in the first round anyway, David won a split decision.

At issue is First Energy's application to extend the operation of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant twenty years beyond its designed lifespan, from 2017 to 2037. The four citizen groups are: Beyond Nuclear, a Washington D.C. based non-profit; the Ohio Green Party; Don't Waste Michigan; and the Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario. They claim that the plant, which already has a long history of accidents, leaks, and near misses can't be safely run for another twenty years, and that wind and solar power are much more practical alternatives.

The groups had petitioned the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) and have now become Intervenors in the Davis-Besse relicensing process. This challenge to the application is intended to block the re-licensing and to shut Davis-Besse in 2017 as scheduled.

On April 26, the three judge panel ruled in favor of granting all four groups Intervenor status. The next step is a formal hearing where the coalition will present their arguments and evidence.

The 65 page decision had victories for both sides. First Energy and the NRC succeeded in having many of the issues the groups had brought up thrown out. Issues such as the danger of terrorist attack, or the potential meltdown of highly radioactive nuclear fuel rods stored on site were ruled as outside of the scope of the proceedings and won't be considered at the hearing. On the other hand, two of the main points were allowed. FirstEnergy has been ordered to analyze whether wind and solar power, combined with energy storage can effectively replace the 908 megawatts of electricity that Davis-Besse currently provides. The other issue which the licensing board agreed to hear is whether or not the computer simulations First Energy used to predict how much damage and pollution would be caused by a nuclear accident are anything more than a programmer's fantasy.

The NRC ASLB's ruling, along with related documents such as the environmental coalition's original petition and a backgrounder on the numerous near-accidents at Davis-Besse over the past 35 years, are posted at the top of Beyond Nuclear's homepage, www.beyondnuclear.org. Additional information is also available on the Citizens Environment Alliance website, www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org.